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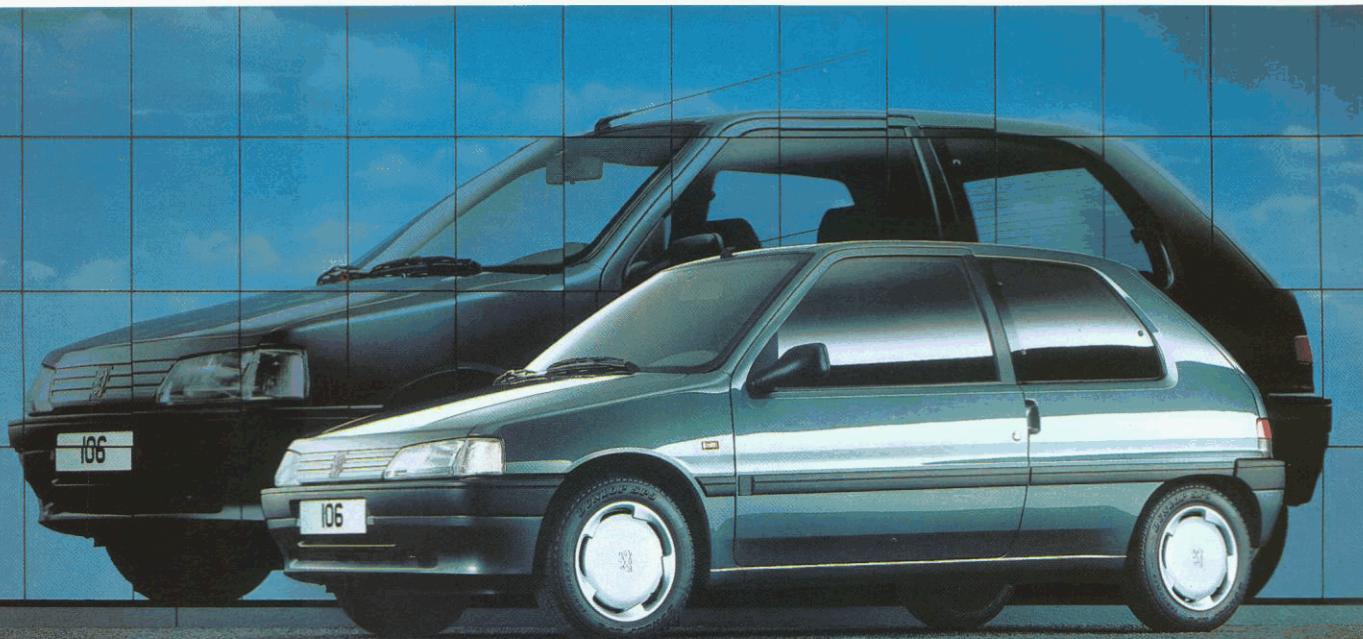
BEYOND THE WALL: 1RWF IN BERLIN



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Ivan faces an uncertain future - see Pages 26-29

FRONT COVER: Pastures new for mascots of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers "behind" the Brandenburg Gate in former East Berlin. Pictured are Goat Majors LCpl Kevin Evans (left) with the battalion's new mascot and Fus Stan Harding, with the retiring Billy. RWF goat mascots are traditionally named Billy. See Pages 30-33.

(Picture: Mike Perring)

SOLDIER

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Soldiers about to go out on foot patrol meet Prime Minister John Major during his visit to Girdwood Security Force base, north-west Belfast. With the men, of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, is their commanding officer, Lt Col Alistair Duncan (left)

Big boost for NI strength

TROOP numbers in Northern Ireland rose to their highest level since 1981 when 1,000 extra soldiers arrived last month.

Deployment of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers and 27 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery boosted the Army's strength there to 11,800, in addition to 6,000 full and part-time soldiers of the Ulster Defence Regiment.

The reinforcements had been planned for some time and were not a direct result of the murder of eight civilian building workers by the IRA at Teebane Cross, near Cookstown, on January 17.

As part of a continuing review of force levels, the arrival of 1 RHF enables military support to the Royal Ulster Constabulary to be kept at a high level.

Busy year for NI bomb teams - Page 5

The gunner regiment's unaccompanied tour is in support of a major operation in south Fermanagh in which work is being carried out on several permanent vehicle checkpoints (PVCPs) to enhance security and improve traffic control.

The work will allow the Security Forces to operate more flexibly in the area surrounding the PVCPs, which were the target of IRA attacks last year.

In support of the operation, the Irish Army and the Gardai provided more than 160 men to guard the southern side of the border.

On his second visit to Northern Ireland as Prime

Minister on January 20, Mr John Major was told by Army and RUC commanders that still more British troops were needed.

At Girdwood Security Force base in north-west Belfast, he was met by the GOC Northern Ireland, Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey, Brig Mike Jackson, Commander 39 Infantry Brigade, and Lt Col Alistair Duncan, CO 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. He also talked to soldiers about to go on foot patrol.

The Prime Minister then visited the military wing of Musgrave Park Hospital, where he met, among others, a survivor of the Cookstown attack and saw repair work carried out since the IRA bombing in November which killed two soldiers.

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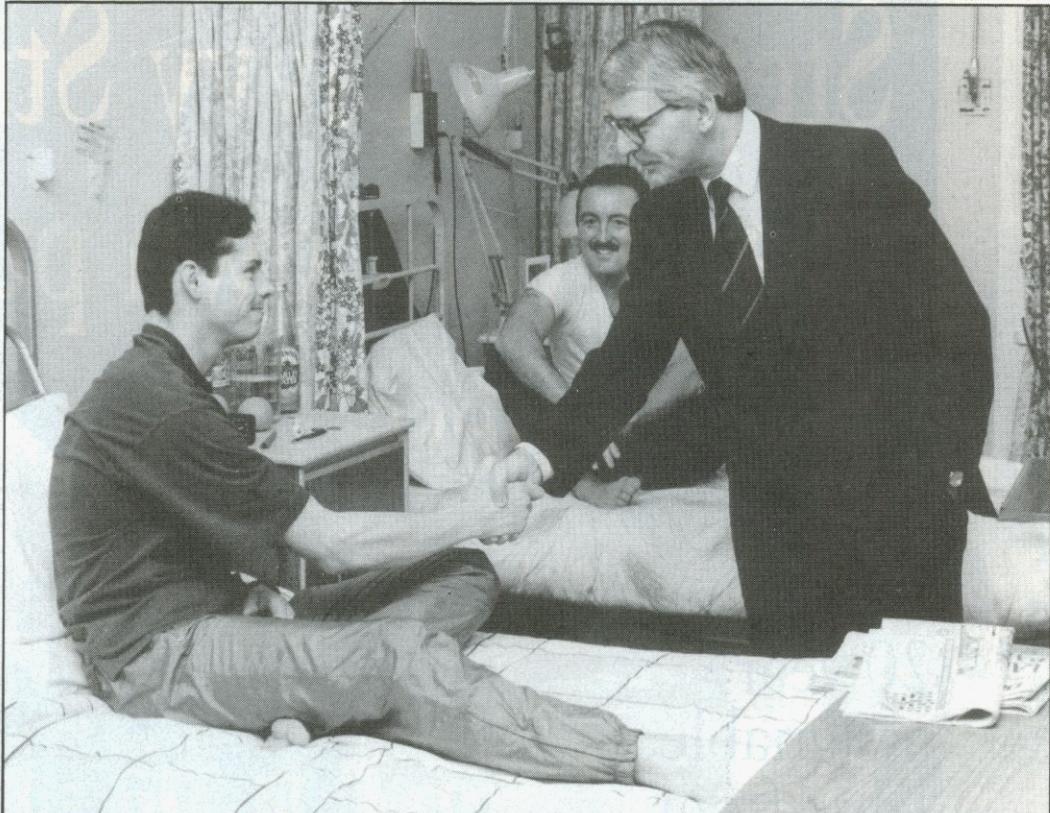
Merger still on course

THE POSSIBILITY of an early general election could delay legislation to sanction the planned merger of the Ulster Defence Regiment with The Royal Irish Rangers.

Because the UDR was established under an Act of Parliament, the Ministry of Defence is required to introduce a Bill to create the new Royal Irish Regiment.

The amalgamated regiment will have one general service battalion and up to seven others for service in Northern Ireland.

Although no date has been set for the introduction of legislation, the original intention to complete the merger of the R Irish and UDR by July was unchanged.



Patients and staff at the Musgrave Park Hospital military wing were heartened by an unscheduled visit from the Prime Minister during his visit to Belfast. Here Pte James Davis, 1 Para (left) greets Mr John Major while Sgt Anthony Margiotta, 2 RRF looks on

Eventful year for EOD

ARMY bomb disposal teams in Northern Ireland were busier during 1991 than in any year since 1978.

During the 12 months, explosives ordnance disposal (EOD) experts of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps answered 1,758 calls.

These ranged from incidents such as large vehicle bombs and finds of weapons and explosives to suspect letters and incendiaries.

In 1991 there was also a significant increase in grenade and mortar attacks. New home-made weapons such as the Mk 15, or coffee-jar bomb, and the improvised grenade launcher known in the Army as the PRIG (projected recoilless improvised grenade) were seen for the first time.

All seven PRIG firings failed to hit the target or cause casualties, but the 73 Mk 15 grenade incidents resulted in two deaths – one a civilian – and two serious injuries.

Attacks against Security Force bases and Royal Ulster Constabulary stations were a feature of 1991, with ever-

increasing amounts of home-made explosives (HME) being used.

The largest HME device seen in Northern Ireland – weighing 3,500kg – failed to reach its target at Annaghmartin on September 3.

IRA bombs which did explode were at Glenanne (1,000kg), RUC Kilrea (500kg), RUC Markethill (500kg) and RUC Craigavon (1,250kg).

EOD teams have had to deal with a new spate of city-centre bombs which started towards the end of 1991.

Until recently, attacks against commercial premises were largely carried out with cassette incendiaries, some the work of Loyalist paramilitaries and the Animal Liberation Front.

The recent use of large vehicle bombs against the commercial heart of Belfast is a

return to the methods of the 1970s and early 1980s.

The level of attacks against individuals using vehicle booby traps or under-vehicle improvised explosive devices (UVIEDs) remained constant in 1991 compared with previous years, though they did result in three deaths (two members of the Security Force, one civilian) and five serious injuries (one Security Force, four civilian).

With the maxim "Better to be safe than sorry" very much in mind, EOD experts place the preservation of life uppermost in all their actions.

Northern Ireland EOD figures for 1991 (with 1990 figures in brackets) were:

Explosions: 230 (176); **IEDs:** 137 (120); **Incendiary attacks:** 142 (26); **Total weight of explosions:** 6,576kg (5,392kg); **total weight of explosives recovered:** 6,867kg (8,922kg).

Reserves sign up 2,500th employer

THE MINISTRY of Defence's Volunteer Reserve Forces Campaign, launched in September 1988 and spearheaded by the National Employers' Liaison Committee, has reached a significant milestone in its work to gain the support of the employers of volunteer reservists of all Services.

Prime Minister Mr John Major presented a certificate to the 2500th employer to declare support at a special reception held at Lancaster House, London.

In the presence of more than 200 major UK employers, as well as a large number of government ministers, Mr Francis Graves, Chairman of the South Birmingham Health Authority accepted the certificate.

The Prime Minister told the reception: "We do need, always have needed, do now, and will in the future, a well motivated reserve of volunteers."

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Picture: Terry Champion

Czechs see big guns on Belfast

Czechoslovakian inspectors, escorted by their United Kingdom counterparts, were given a close look at one of Britain's older deterrents during a bilateral CFE practice inspection last month. While in London for the latest bilateral exercise to practise reception and escorting procedures, the Czech team visited HMS Belfast, moored opposite the Tower of London. A reciprocal inspection by a UK team will be made to Czechoslovakia this month under the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty

Trio in Balkans

THE three British officers in the Balkans with the United Nations are Maj Andrew Taylor, RCT, Maj Hamish Cameron, RHF, and Maj Richard McCrow, A and SH. Formerly with the UN Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission, they liaise with the Yugoslav federal army and the Croatian national guard in order to reduce tension and maintain a ceasefire.



Personnel from Rheindahlen-based Territorial Army unit 213 Transport Squadron were the guests of Nato Secretary General Manfred Woerner for their part in providing logistic support to an international military competition run annually by the German Army. Pictured at Nato HQ in Brussels are (from left) SSgt Mike Evans, REME(V), RCT, Cpl Susanne Tillmanns, WRAC(V), and Cpl Eddy Russel REME, who was awarded the BEM in the Gulf War honours. They were accompanied by Maj Jonathan Thorn RCT

Sandhurst setting for royal portrait

A NEW full-length portrait of the Queen, commissioned by the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the original RMA at Woolwich, was unveiled by former Defence Secretary George Younger, chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, whose donation made the commission possible.

The portrait, by Andrew Festing, will hang in the Grand Entrance Hall of Old College, a departure from tradition that will allow it to be seen by visitors to Sandhurst as well as officer cadets undergoing training there.

Andrew Festing, the son of the late Field Marshal Sir Francis Festing, and himself a former Sandhurst cadet, spent nine years in the Army.

His painting shows the Queen in Garter robes against a background identifying it with Sandhurst, in particular the presentation of new Colours by the Queen in April last year.

CRAFTY M-ARTY

EIGHTY mortar and artillery observer trainers are to be supplied to the British Army by Marconi Simulation. The system, known as M-ARTY, will be used to train soldiers in basic tactics, production of battery and mortar platoon fire plans, and laser range-finding procedures.

M-ARTY is designed to deal with four batteries of light guns, or mortars.

The company has also been chosen to supply driver training units for the Challenger 2 main battle tank.

CLIMBERS AIM FOR ANTARCTIC SUMMIT

A JOINT Services expedition to Antarctica will leave the United Kingdom in December. Aim of the lightweight expedition is to make a second attempt to climb Smith Island, which rises from sea level to

6,900ft within two miles.

The party is due to return in April 1993, and applicants should write to the leader, WO John Kimbrey at Lympstone, Exmouth, Devon EX8 5AR (tel: 0392 873781 ext 342).

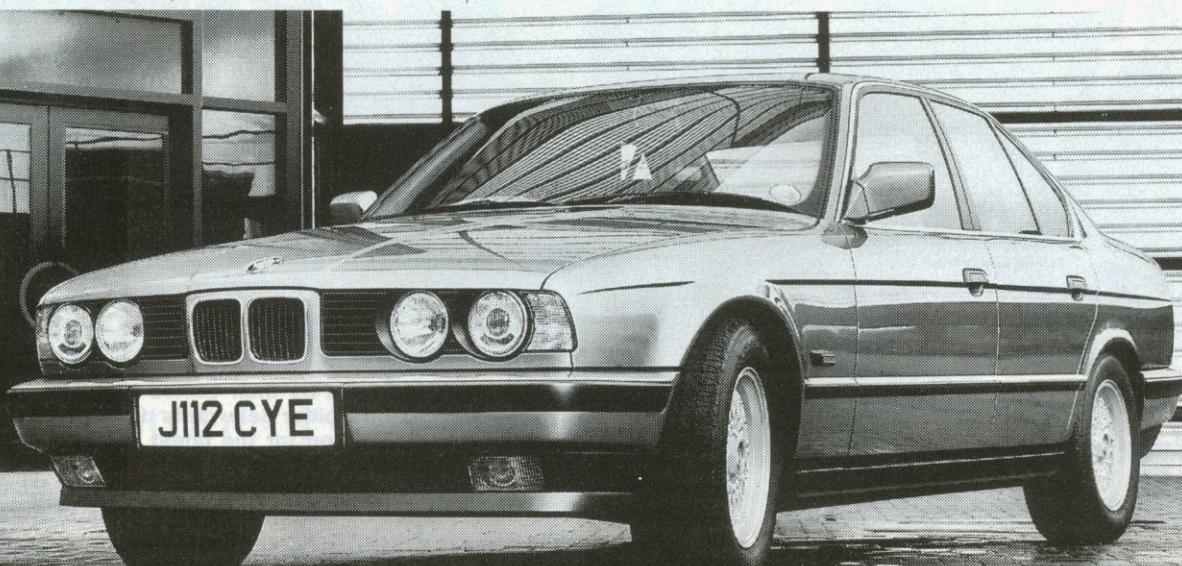
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FAW joins task force

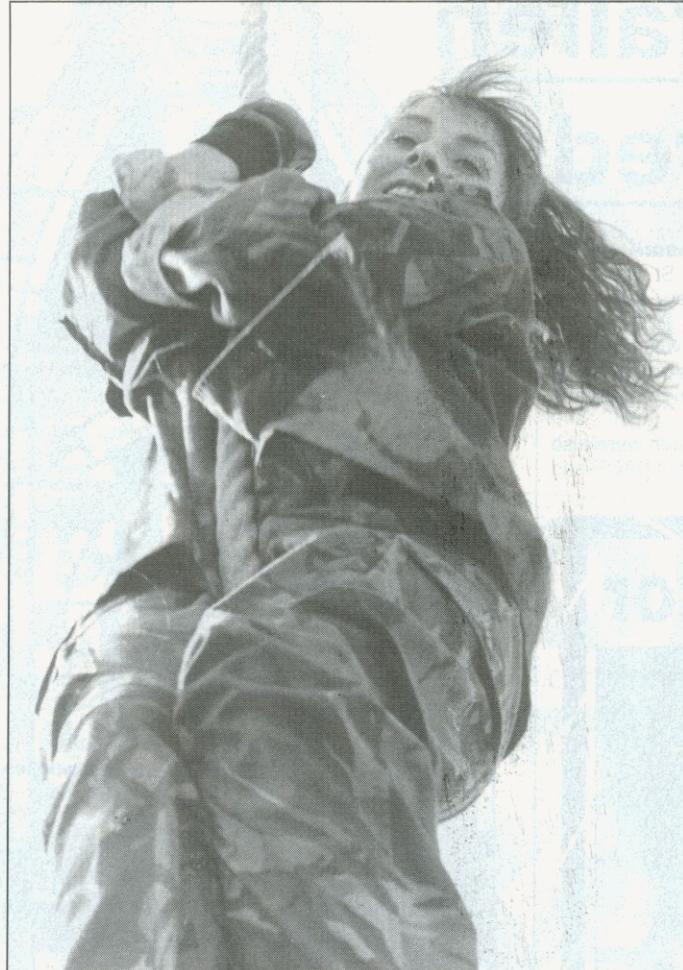
FEDERATION of Army Wives chairman Mrs Gabrielle Tait has joined the housing task force set up under Lord Arran, Under Secretary of State for Defence.

The appointment, as the Federation celebrates its tenth year, reflects the recognition afforded it at the highest levels. The task force has been created to tackle housing problems created by Options for Change.

QLR's charity begins at home

THE 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment has been awarded the 1991 plaque for outstanding support to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Lt Col Geoff Sheldon, commanding officer of 1 QLR, received the trophy at Weeton Barracks, near Blackpool. The battalion raised more than £3,000 for the ABF in addition to supporting a number of other charities during the year.



Hanging in there on the assault course at Episkopi, Cyprus is Mrs Sarah Greenhalgh. She was one of 40 members of the wives' club of the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, currently based in Cyprus, who took part in a 36-hour field exercise designed to give them an insight into their husbands' professional lives.

Canadians guarantee BATUS link

CANADA will continue to welcome the British Army to its vast training areas well into the next century.

The countries have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will guarantee training at the British Army Training Unit, Suffield (BATUS) for the next 15 years.

Suffield in Alberta provides the Army with a thousand square miles of open prairie over which battle groups of tanks and armoured infantry can manoeuvre and fire their weapons.

The area, protected by its military use, has become a safe environment in which flora and fauna have flourished.

The arrangement reflects the close ties between the British and Canadian armies and was made possible by the agreement signed by Defence Secretary Tom King and his Canadian counterpart, Marcel Masse, last September.

The agreement also covers British Army involvement at Wainwright and at a number of engineering and adventurous training locations.

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Soldiers urged to take out insurance

TWO NEW protection plans designed to overcome insurance problems highlighted by the Gulf War have been endorsed by the Ministry of Defence.

Forces Safeguard, launched by the Armed Forces Financial Advisory Service (AFFAS) and Scottish Widows, and PAX Plus from brokers Bain Clarkson, will be promoted by the Directorate General of Personal Services (Army) during a worldwide insurance roadshow this month and next.

Forces Safeguard offers Service personnel and their spouses life cover anywhere in the world, on duty or off, with no exclusions for service in Northern Ireland or in any theatre of war.

A higher premium will be applied to the UDR, airmen and bomb disposal personnel, but there will be no loading for SAS, parachutists or divers.

Forces Safeguard includes a "loyalty" bonus for those leaving the Service after two years in the scheme, or still serving after ten years as members.

PAX Plus, the personal accident insurance package offered last year to Royal Air Force personnel, has now been extended to the British Army. It also offers optional life cover.

A feature of PAX Plus is worldwide cover for accidental death or injury – including from terrorist activities – for soldiers on and off duty, and no exclusions for sport, including motor cycling.

The introduction of PAX Plus follows the original personal insurance scheme tailored for service personnel, PAX, and a special Middle East policy made available during the Gulf War.

Operation Granby focused the minds of Servicemen on the need for personal insurance. After the outbreak of hostilities many found they had insufficient cover and were then unable to obtain it.

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Spr Richard Hearn lays a charge next to a bomblet on Failaka Island, 18km off the Kuwaiti coast

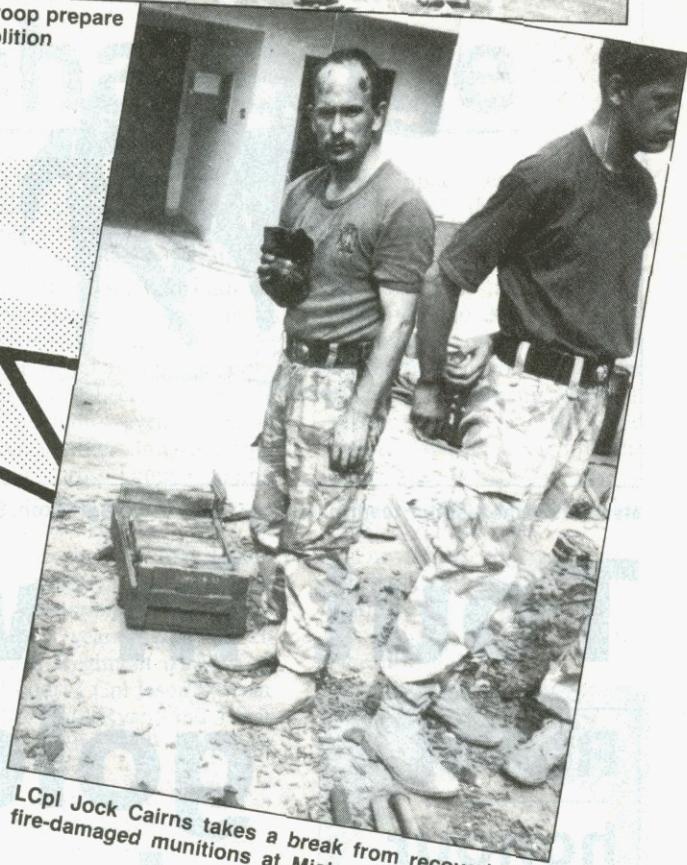


Men of 3 Troop prepare for a demolition

Last in, last out!



Cpl Simon Oats (left) and Sgt Wayne Padgett



LCpl Jock Cairns takes a break from recovering fire-damaged munitions at Mishref

Now 21 (EOD) Squadron is here to stay

A YEAR after the Gulf War ended, one British Army unit can claim to being "last in and last out".

The quick end to the fighting in Kuwait resulted in 21 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron RE - formed on December 1 1990 for deployment on Operation Granby - being stood down.

But all was not lost as the Ministry of Defence "hired out" the squadron to Royal Ordnance to enable the company to secure a contract with the Kuwaiti Government.

The squadron, under Maj John Watkinson RE, deployed last summer to Al Jubayl, and spent two weeks preparing vehicles and equipment left behind by 49 EOD Squadron, moving to Kuwait City to start a four-month contract.

More than 40 attachments were made to the squadron group, which by now had a medical section including two MOs, REME and diving

sections, a Royal Signals detachment, two RAF weapons technicians in addition to three EOD troops and a plant section.

Normally 90-strong, the squadron by now had 140 personnel on its books.

Two months were spent on the clearance of Mishref - a suburb of Kuwait City - by 1 and 3 Troops. The area contained 7,000 houses and public buildings, including the Emir of Kuwait's Palace. At the same time, 2 Troop worked on the east coast beaches, eventually clearing more than 60km.

Bunker-busting provided 3 Troop with a more traditional combat engineer task, and 56 bunkers were destroyed in four days.

The second half of the tour involved the clearance of Failaka Island, 18km off the Kuwaiti coast. The island had suffered from heavy aerial and naval bombardment before the

Iraqis surrendered without a land battle.

Most of the work involved the clearance of sub munitions, in particular the American "Rockeye". Due to the poor storage conditions, clearance of unstable munitions became a major task.

Clearing ammunition dumps and ammunition storage incidents was a regular occurrence on both Failaka Island and the mainland. They proved to be hazardous and time-consuming.

The squadron's contract ran through the Kuwait summer and temperatures peaked at over 57 degrees C. The sections wore flak jackets and blast goggles and the dangers of heat stress were added to the EO threat.

During the tour, the squadron destroyed more than 200,000 items of explosive ordnance and recovered 140,000 items for the Kuwaiti army.

Meanwhile, other coalition forces were winding down their disposal efforts because of the large number of casualties sustained. This left 21 Squadron as the only in-theatre troops with an all-round capability, particularly on chemical incidents. As a result, the unit was given high profile taskings by the Kuwaiti MoD.

The tour gave the squadron invaluable training in dealing with modern battlefield weapons. More importantly, it was a success in that the squadron returned with all its men.

There was a final happy twist to the story when it was announced under Options for Change that 21 Squadron, now back at Chattenden, Kent, with its parent unit, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), would remain in being.

THE OLYMPIANS

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Members of the biathlon team in training: from left are Sgt Dixon, Spr Ryan, Cpl Woods, LCpl Sklenar, LBdr Rudd and Pte Malcolm Hamilton, KOSB

Tout in with golden chance

Roll of honour

FIFTEEN members of the British Army will be in action for Great Britain at the Winter Olympics at Albertville, France. In addition, the Army is supplying a number of team managers and officials.

The list of competitors is:

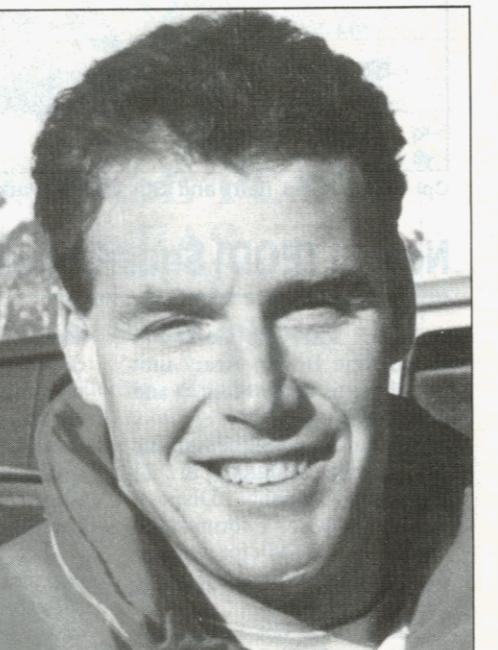
Biathlon: Sgt Michael Dixon (35 Engr Regt), Cpl Ian Woods (26 Engr Regt), LCpl Jason Sklenar (26 Engr Regt), Spr Paul Ryan (26 Engr Regt), LBdr Kenneth Rudd (50 Msl Regt RA).

Cross country: Bdr Dave Belam (3 RHA), Bdr John Read (50 Msl Regt RA), Cpl Glenn Scott (2 RTR).

Freestyle: Capt Hugh Hutchison (35 Engr Regt).

Bobsleigh: Cpl Mark Tout (2 RTR), Sgt Lenny Paul (R Anglian), Cpl George Farrell (R Signals), LCpl Sean Olsson (Para), LCpl Eric Sekwalor (Para).

Luge: Cpl Ian Whitehead (101 Pro Coy RMP).



Cpl Mark Tout, Britain's No 1

CPL Mark Tout (2 RTR) established his four-man bobsleigh team as a contender for Olympic gold at La Plagne when he drove his crew to a track record in winning the British four-man title at Iglis in Austria.

Tout's brakeman is international sprinter Sgt Lenny Paul (R Anglian), and his four includes Cpl George Farrell (R Signals) and civilian Paul Fields.

The two soldiers have already earned selection for the GB 1 bobsleighs in both the four and two-man events after a highly successful season.

Tout is currently second in the World Cup rankings after a series of performances that have made him a genuine medal prospect for the Winter Olympics based at Albertville in France.

In addition to the Olympics Olsson and Sekwalor have the Army senior and Inter-Service championships this month, and the junior world championships a week before the Games. Olsson won bronze medals in both two and four-man bobs at the last junior world championships.

Olsson and Phipps will both go to Albertville, but who competes with Tout will be decided in a series of race-offs after the British camp's final training sessions.

chances of competing at La Plagne.

Olsson (24), rated as the best young prospect of British bobsledding, was second in the British four-man championship and goes head-to-head against veteran Nick Phipps for the GB 2 drive in both four and two-man events.

To gain more competition experience he and Sekwalor also entered the Austrian national championships, and finished in an encouraging fourth position.



LCpl Eric Sekwalor (left) and LCpl Sean Olsson



Biathlete Cpl Ian Woods of 26 Engr Regt

Dixon leads Britain's Nordic ski challenge

BRITISH ARMY interest in the skiing events at the 16th Winter Olympics will be concentrated on eight soldiers representing Great Britain in the Nordic events and one in the freestyle.

Four Royal Engineers and a gunner have been selected for the biathlon event, which combines the lung-bursting effort of cross country skiing with shooting skills.

Britain's colours will be carried by Sgt Michael Dixon (35 Engr Regt), who performed with distinction in the Olympics four years ago, the 26 Engineer Regiment trio of Cpl Ian Woods, LCpl Jason Sklenar and Spr Paul Ryan, and LBdr Kenneth Rudd (50 Msl Regt RA).

Bdr Dave Belam (3 RHA), Bdr John Read (50 Msl Regt) and Cpl Glenn Scott (2 RTR) are in the cross country team with Royal Marine Mark Croasdale.

The GB cross country team manager is Captain Antony Abell of the Royal Green Jackets and the biathletes will be managed by Capt Eddy Lowe, RE, a national team manager since 1988 and the course-setter at the British championships.

Britain's cross country skiers have been prepared by top Russian coach Leonid Kuzmin, the biathletes by Czechoslovakian Lubos Hacek and the teams are supported by psychologists, a physiotherapist and an expert in nutrition.

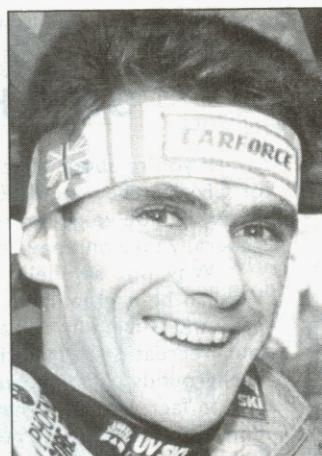
Since the Winter Olympics are being "moved" to alternate years to the summer Games, the next winter event will be at Lillehammer, Norway, in 1994, giving the world's top skiers a unique opportunity to compete in two Olympics within two years.

Former Olympic skier Maj

(Retd) Spud Leaning, Nordic director of the British Ski Federation, hopes that Michael Dixon will make the top ten in the biathlon, and Kenneth Rudd the top 20.

"Olympic medals are very, very difficult to win, but a skier of Dixon's calibre must have an outside chance," said Maj Leaning, who competed for the Army and Britain for several years and was a member of the 1968 Olympic team.

The former Royal Artillery officer led the delegation for the British Olympic Committee at Les Saisies, venue for the Nordic events.



Capt Hugh Hutchison

Hutchison in freestyle

CAPT Hugh Hutchison, RE, serving with 35 Engineer Regiment, will represent Great Britain in the freestyle skiing competition at Albertville.

Cpl Ian Whitehead of 101 Provost Company based at Dusseldorf has been selected for the British luge team, which will be managed by former international WO2 (QMSI) Jim Evans, APTC, serving with the 2nd Fd Regt RA at Munster.

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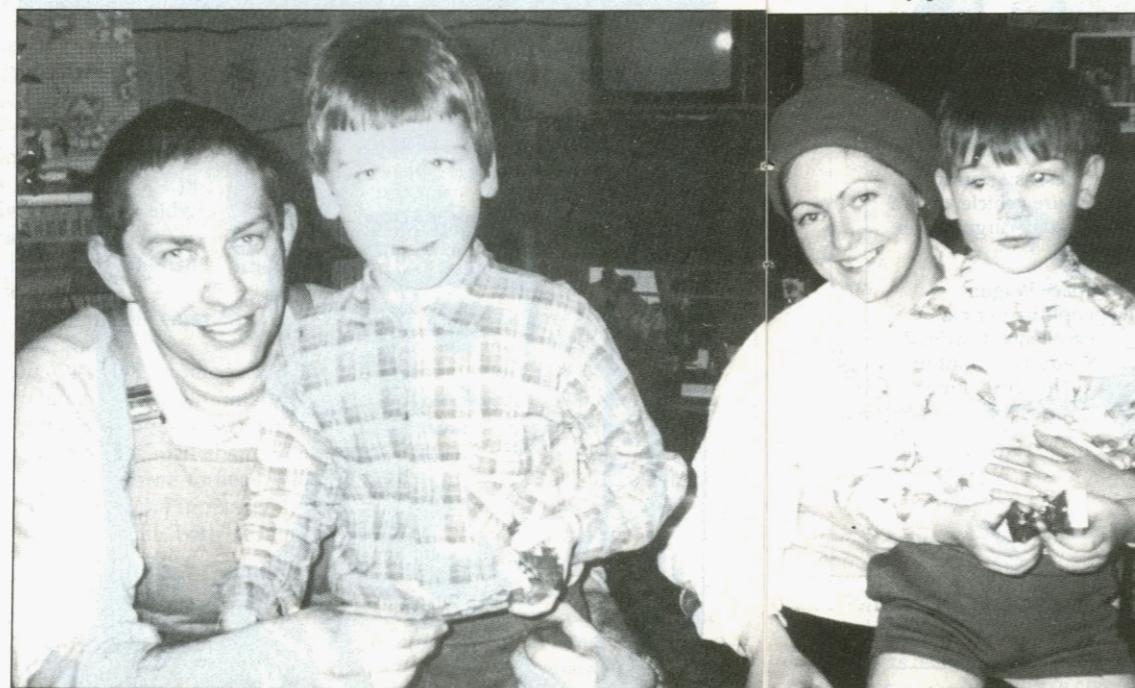
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SSgt Nick Buxton, 14 Fd Wksp REME, and wife Jackie with two Russian children in an orphanage



Smolensk people with a sledge piled high with food boxes



British volunteers, plus an ITN camera crew on the right, at Smolensk. They returned to Berlin on January 4

CONVOY TO SMOLENSK

AN OLD Russian woman – wrapped warmly against the bitter cold – burst into tears as she picked up her food parcel.

Caught by the emotion of the moment, she was one of dozens who had been queuing patiently in the snow to receive the windfall of foodstuffs donated by the British military community in Berlin.

Many had travelled several miles on hearing from the Russian Orthodox Church that help was on the way.

Grateful to the British volunteers who had driven

almost 1,000 miles to Smolensk, the city's needy were reluctant to concede the extent of their plight.

One woman and her young handicapped daughter, tugging their box through the snow on a sledge, admitted that the basics of life were in short supply.

"Of course I am sad that I can't fill my daughter's plate with food," she said, "but I just have to do the best I can."

Her box of food, containing flour, coffee, tea, sugar, tinned meat and similar, was one of 250 put together by volunteers

in Berlin for dispatch to Smolensk.

The British element – three trucks and two Land Rovers manned by 26 Servicemen and family members – was part of an American-led convoy of 19 vehicles.

They joined it after an approach to the American organisers by the British garrison's Help Information Volunteer Exchange (HIVE) co-ordinator Mrs Malvin Sayle.

The Soviet Army's Western Group of Forces in eastern Germany provided most of the

heavy goods vehicles, plus a recovery truck and all-important fuel bowser.

Food donations poured in and the British eventually loaded – in addition to the 250 family food boxes – several tons of tinned food, sugar and rice left over from the garrison's emergency stocks held since the Russian blockade of Berlin in 1948.

Bags full of clothes and boxes of medical supplies completed the inventory.

Independent Television News (ITN), whose camera crew remained with the British throughout the trip, filmed the departure of the convoy on December 28 from the Russian Orthodox Church in Potsdam on Berlin's outskirts. Members of the Church later co-ordinated the distribution of the food.

After 24 hours of hard driving, wintry refuelling stops and bureaucratic border hold-ups, the convoy finally crossed the border from Poland into the then Soviet Union.

In a scene reminiscent of a Le Carré novel, the vehicles drove through the drab, neon-lit, snow-bound border post watched by armed guards with dogs.

Drivers pulled into a Russian army camp at the border town of Brest for lunch and an afternoon nap.

In an unprecedented display of hospitality indicative of the remarkable political changes,

the Russians emptied a barrack block to let the volunteers sleep and relax. Soldiers holding Union Jack paper flags happily posed with members of the convoy for photographs.

Piper Dennis Comiskey, 1

IG, one of the drivers, delighted the young Soviet soldiers with a skirl of bagpipe music as the convoy prepared to leave in the evening gloom.

Driving through the night with a Russian militia escort to deter black marketeers, the British element parted with the others near Vitebsk and arrived in Smolensk on December 30, to be met at the Russian Orthodox Cathedral by the regional archbishop.

Smolensk, 200 miles west of Moscow, was the scene of pitched battles with the invading armies of both Napoleon and Hitler.

British volunteers distributed the food boxes to needy individuals and the bulk supplies to orphanages, children's homes and institutions for the elderly and mentally handicapped.

Delighted children leapt into

the arms of the volunteers from Berlin who were soon giving out belated Christmas presents of sweets and toys.

New Year's Eve was spent at Vitebsk at a party for all convoy members. During the evening,

Berlin-based Russian interpreter CSgt Lawrence Skuse, 1 RRW attached to 2 RMP, accepted the rank badges of WO2.

Promoted at midnight, he was given his warrant officer's crowns in a glass of vodka in traditional Russian army style. Presenting him with the badges, Maj Peter Owen

Edmunds, WG, remarked that WO2 Skuse was probably the only British soldier to have been promoted in the former Soviet Union, which on December 31 became a Commonwealth of Independent Republics.

"When that lady burst into tears, I just had to give her a hug. We don't realise how lucky we are," said Mrs Sayle.

It is hoped a similar venture will be arranged later this year.

**Words and pictures:
Mervyn Wynne Jones**



WO2 Lawrence Skuse, promoted in Russia

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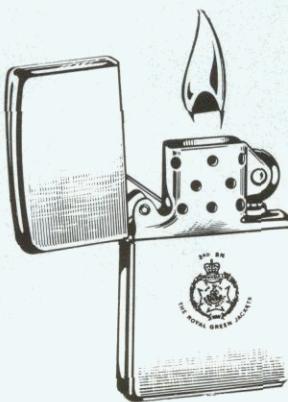


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With love from Michelle

MICHELLE GRAVES showed true courage and devotion to finance LCpl Darren Swift, RGJ, when she made her first free-fall parachute jump.

The money – almost £1,500 – which she accumulated by means of sponsored fund raising through the generosity of staff at the School of Infantry, Warminster and several local firms, was her way of displaying her feelings for Darren, who had his legs blown off in a terrorist incident in Northern Ireland.

Now undergoing extensive medical rehabilitation at RAF Headley Court, where he is learning to master his two artificial legs, Darren was until 1990 a member of the permanent staff at the School of Infantry.



Michelle hands over the cheque to LCpl Darren Swift at the School of Infantry

Depot staff make Light work of abseiling

FOUR soldiers from the Light Division Depot, Winchester have received heartfelt thanks from the Spastics Society.

Sgt Maj Ross Ashe-Cregan, Sgt Jeff Karamath and Cpl Martin Tredwell and Martin Keeling briefed, encouraged and supported 140 volunteers who abseiled down the 170ft Dukes Keep building in Southampton.

Spastics Society fundraiser Mrs Janet Blann said the soldiers "gave all the volunteers complete confidence in the equipment they had to use and enabled a difficult fundraising challenge to run safely."

Sponsorship sums totalling £11,000 were pledged.

Thanks to the support of RAPC Worthy Down, a centre which assists disabled children is now £2,351 richer.

Sgt Martyn Day, who works at Worthy Down, and his wife Dorothy were loaned the camp's assault course for the day, and 40 competitors had fun scrambling over water jumps and high walls.

The money has been given to the Medecroft Opportunity

Their assault on our money just goes on and on!

SALUTE THE Bury Fusiliers Krypton Committee! For 12 years, they have organised sponsored runs over Granada TV's *Krypton Factor* assault course at Holcombe Moor Army Training Camp near Bury in the Pennines.

During that time they have raised more than £200,000 for regional and local charities, including the Army Benevolent Fund and the Fusilier Aid Society, who have benefited by £100,000.

The committee's 1991 efforts provided Col Stephen Overton, Commander Manchester Garrison and Chief Paymaster at the Officer's Pay Office, Ashton under Lyne, with a £3,000

cheque for ABF – and Maj George Connolly from RHQ Royal Regiment of Fusiliers with a similar amount.

Both contributions have been pledged to help victims of the Gulf War.

The ABF has also received a large Krypton cheque from the Booth Hall Children's Hospital Trust. It raised £20,583 when nearly 800 people braved atrocious weather to test their stamina over the course.

APTC instructors and Terriers from 202 Squadron, 75 Engineer Regiment, based in Clifton, Manchester, provided Army back-up for the two-day event, which raised nearly £100,000 overall.



Steven Watts, campaign co-ordinator of the Booth Hall Trust, presents the cheque to (from left) Maj David Waters, o/c 202 Field Squadron, 75 Engineer Regiment; Lt Col (Retd) Mike Hardy, ABF regional organiser; and Maj (Retd) Charles Roberts, Camp Commandant



LI Depot fund-raisers. From left to right are Sgt Jeff Karamath, Peter Burton, Cpl Martin Keeling, Janet Blann, Alan Jackson, Cpl Martin Tredwell and Sgt Maj Ross Ashe-Cregan

Centre, which the Days' son, Wayne – who has cerebral palsy – attends.

★ ★ ★

Three members of D Troop, 64 Sqn, Depot and Training Regiment RCT – Sgt Mal Overman and Cpl Mark Wierzbicki and Andy Gollop – handed over five TV wall mounting brackets and co-axial cables to the children's ward of Southampton General Hospital.

The goodies were bought with the proceeds of a collection raised by intakes 303 and 307 of the troop.

★ ★ ★

Marks and Spencer has donated £5,000 to SSAFA to assist with welfare cases that would otherwise be ineligible for help from regimental or other associations' benevolent funds.

Last year one such case

concerned an elderly ex-Serviceman who, on his return from hospital, discovered that his neighbour had put his dog into kennels.

He was unable to pay the kennel fees to reclaim his only companion, so SSAFA used money donated by Marks and Spencer to pay the outstanding bill in full.

Over the past four years, the British community at HQ AFCENT in the Netherlands has raised some 50,000 guilders (£15,500) for charity. Proceeds from the latest event, another 24-hour marathon, went to local Dutch charities.

The run took place over a 1.8km course on roads within Hendrik Camp at HQ AFCENT. The five 12-man teams ran in relays covering two laps of each circuit. The teams ran 919 miles (1,479km) and raised DG9,450.

★ ★ ★

An advisory service, designed to help Service families solve housing problems after they leave the Forces, is to benefit by almost DM13,000 thanks to the Bielefeld Flower Club. The cash, raised at the

club's autumn fair which attracts visitors from all over British Forces Germany, was presented to SSAFA project officer Glenis Johnstone.

It will be used in the setting up of a new UK-based computer system for the recently-formed Housing Advisory Bureau, part of SSAFA's Homeward Bound project to help families leaving the Services.

★ ★ ★

Gunners from 25 Battery, 19th Field Regiment based at Alanbrooke Barracks in Topcliffe, Yorkshire, showed they had pulling power.

They hauled a two-tonne Second World War howitzer gun a punishing 20 miles from Northallerton to Thirsk – and back again.

Along the way, another 60 soldiers collected vital funds for Yorkshire Spinal Injuries Centre's Stepping Stone appeal.

★ ★ ★

A cheque for £5,000 has been presented to the Gurkha Welfare Appeal by retired



Cpl Francoise Thompson, WRAC (centre), Cpl Julia Aslett, WRAF, and Steward Ruth Watts, WRNS, were all smiles when they helped Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton to pick winners and runners-up in the annual SSAFA three-car draw which, with more than 300,000 tickets sold, made a record profit of over £64,000

major Jonathan Titley.

Formerly with 6 Gurkha Rifles, Mr Titley is now a director of Gurkha Security Guards Ltd, a company based in St Helier, Jersey which provides second careers for former Gurkhas.

A percentage of the company's profits is set aside in a special trust fund for the benefit of the employees, and to help needy ex-Gurkhas and their families in the hills of Nepal.



Jonathan Titley

Potential guide dog Ruby, fresh from the "puppy walking" phase of her training, has very much the same expression as any recruit approaching depot training. She is pictured with Tpr Toby Turner of The Blues and Royals at the handover of a cheque for £1,489 raised by The Household Cavalry recruiting team and the efforts of the Regimental Corporal Major Harry Hunter, who ran in the Berlin marathon



Sports time: Principal Ken Jones has caused a few ripples by introducing soccer as an alternative to this more traditional game

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Weston



Off to study: some of the Welbexians. Inset, Promising pupils: Edward Watters and Mike Forster

Gateway to Sandhurst

INITIATIVE, willpower, determination, courage, humanity, confidence, and the ability to communicate . . .

These are the qualities Ken Jones, Principal of Welbeck College in Nottinghamshire, is looking for in his pupils.

And successful graduates will be following in illustrious footsteps.

Numbered among old Welbexians are at least five major generals, nearly 30 brigadiers and about 70 colonels.

All have made names for themselves in corps such as the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, the Royal Corps of Signals, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Engineers.

And all attended the magnificent establishment set in 300 acres on the edge of Sherwood Forest, just outside Worksop.

Founded in 1953 to provide a science-based education for future officers, Welbeck – the Army's residential sixth-form college – has been described as the "gateway to a commission in today's technical Army".

It brings together students from varied backgrounds and secondary schools, and provides them with a two-year



Ken Jones

sixth-form education to prepare them for the Royal Military College Sandhurst and entry to university.

Based in an historic mansion – formerly the home of the Dukes of Portland – converted into residential accommodation, Welbeck is funded by the Ministry of Defence, with fees charged according to parents' disposable income.

Pupils come from all environments. The sons of steelworkers and barmaids, the grandson of a Royal Marine, a student whose father is a microlight aircraft instructor in Portugal . . .

"Many of the current pupils are from backgrounds where parents had no idea that their sons would ever have the potential – or opportunity – to achieve much more than entering the Army as a soldier," explained Mr Jones.

"But high-fliers leave on cadetships, or go on to take degrees in, say, engineering or applied sciences at Oxford or Cambridge."

Examples of the officer material which the college can nurture are provided by Mike Forster and Edward Watters (both 18) who, at the time of SOLDIER's visit, were preparing for an assessment at Sandhurst.

The college takes entries in September (50 or so) and January (about 25).

Mike, an engineer's son and grammar school boy from Kent, and Edward were part of the same entry in 1989.

There is obviously a bond between the two – and a keen rivalry.

"He's from York House, I'm from Harland House," said Edward, an ex-comprehensive schoolboy from a village north of York. "Any fraternisation between members of the college's two houses gets left

behind once one gets on the rugby or soccer pitch."

Inter-house rivalry extends to the odd dormitory raid, especially in the early days of the first term, Edward added.

Officially frowned upon by the school authorities, high-spirited escapades are, nevertheless, part of the boarding school atmosphere at the college.

As one member of September's junior entry – fresh from comprehensive school in Shropshire – put it: "It's a bit of a culture shock at first, having been at a day school before, but I'm getting used to it."

First year students are allocated "cabins" (small curtained-off cubicles) containing a desk and chair, within one of the house areas, graduating to a shared study in their second year.

Contrary to widely-held opinion, Welbeck is not a military unit. Normal daily dress is jacket and trousers, with uniform worn only during the twice-weekly Combined Cadet Force activities.

These are carried out under the watchful eye of an RSM and the adjutant, Capt Steve Vickery, himself an Old

Welbexian. Another "old boy" on the staff is founder pupil Lt Col Andy Morton, the bursar.

Steve went on to Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Royal Signals before obtaining an "in-Service" degree in electrical engineering.

Having returned to his old stamping ground on a two-year tour, he finds himself on the other side of the fence.

In addition to his role as CCF adjutant, he takes 15 periods a week on written and verbal communication.

"The boys are always asking me what the college was like when I was here and what it is like to be a young officer in a technical corps," said Capt Vickery.

"So it's good I am here. They can see the light at the end of the tunnel."

His attitude is characteristic of the teaching staff, which comprises the Principal, a Vice-Principal, a Director of Studies and 15 civilian teachers.

During their time at the college, pupils get an opportunity to sample life within one of the technical corps.

"There are lots of attachments with any unit you like," said Edward Watters. "We fix them up with the Adjutant, especially during the long Easter break. I was lucky enough to go on a trip to BAOR with the Royal Signals."

Ken Jones has put more emphasis on the academic side since his arrival at Welbeck in September 1990.

Some of the punishments doled out by prefects – such as laundry bag duties, early morning parades and cleaning the brass pipes in the school's Savoy Hill urinals – while not totally disappearing, have almost become a thing of the past.

He took over the Principal's reins from a colonel, having been headmaster of a Services comprehensive school in Gutersloh for 18 years.

"What we are about," he said, "is getting a boy to develop in himself, to increase confidence, to be resilient both



Steve Vickery

quality of humanity in their character – which can be so much more easily achieved in a co-educational establishment."

Capt Vickery was in full agreement.

"In the long run, the girls' presence will enrich the college's day-to-day life. When I was a pupil here, I never dreamt girls would come to Welbeck. On the other hand, 12 female recruiting officers were here last September and left with a very good impression of the college."

Welbeck is set to take potential officers – male and female – into the 21st Century.

It is a unique place. After all, not every school can boast that its pupils learn mathematics under a Grade 1 listed ceiling.

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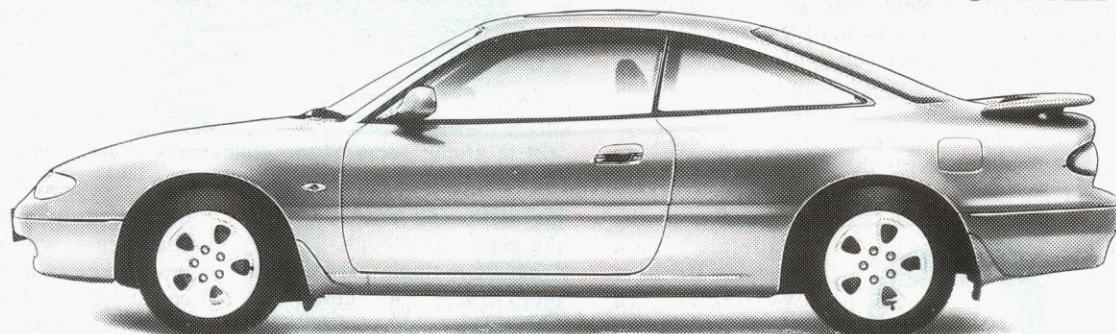
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Memories of a massacre

FIFTY years to the day that he nearly died under a Japanese sword, Mr Norman Leath stood at the graves in Stanley Military Cemetery, Hong Kong, of comrades who were murdered in what became known as the Salesian Mission Massacre.

Mr Leath, now 76 and living in retirement at Ellesmere Port, South Wirral, still bears a deep scar at the back of his neck where he received what was intended to be a lethal sword cut during the battle for Hong Kong half a century ago.

At the time he was a 26-year-old corporal in the Royal Army Medical Corps stationed in the Salesian Mission House at Shau Kei Wan on Hong Kong Island. Part of the mission had been requisitioned for use as an Army medical store.

When Japanese forces crossed the narrow Lei Mun straits and stormed ashore on Hong Kong Island, Mr Leath and a number of others were taken prisoner. Stripped of all



Mr Norman Leath remembers former colleagues buried in Stanley Military Cemetery

their possessions and most of their clothes, they were taken up the hillside at the back of the mission and assaulted with bayonets, rifles, revolvers and swords.

Mr Leath says that 24 were killed, including the nine RAMC men and an RASC driver buried side by side in Stanley Cemetery. Somehow he survived, feigning death

until the Japanese departed, and then crawled away.

Mr Leath spent a few days hiding under nearby houses without any food, before being picked up by the Japanese and sent to Queen Mary's Hospital. He spent the rest of his time in captivity at the old British Military Hospital in Bowen Road.

This was the first time he

had returned to Hong Kong. On the 50th anniversary of the massacre he attended an RAMC service of remembrance at the Stanley Cemetery. Clearly moved by the experience, he said afterwards: "I've got some photographs of these graves but they didn't mean very much. But actually being here makes it all come back."

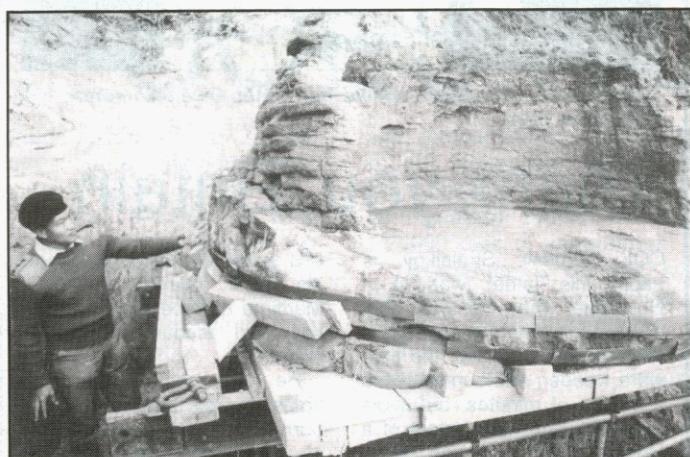
Gently does it by Gurkhas sappers

IT WASN'T by any means the largest task to be undertaken by Queen's Gurkha Engineers in Hong Kong, but it must have been one of the most delicate.

Twelve men of F Troop, 68 Gurkha Field Squadron QGE had the job of extricating a Tang Dynasty lime kiln from the beach of Chek Lap Kok, where it had rested undisturbed for 12 centuries.

Chek Lap Kok is an island being flattened to provide the site for Hong Kong's new international airport. The kiln is one of the best preserved examples of its kind. The burning of coral and sea shells to make lime for caulking ships, fertilising land and making mortar was once a flourishing industry in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong Antiquities and Monuments Department



Capt (QGO) Dalbahadur Gurung of 68 Gurkha Field Squadron with the kiln before it was lifted from the beach at Chek Lap Kok

was anxious to preserve the kiln, the Provisional Airport Authority was prepared to pay the cost of removal, and the Queen's Gurkha Engineers bold enough to take it on.

The 12-man QGE team spent nine days at the site, carefully excavating a trench around the kiln, and then very delicately and patiently inserting beams under the fire-hardened clay

base to make a secure lifting platform, at the same time bracing the fragile structure.

The constant fear was that the old kiln might react to being disturbed for the first time in a millennium by simply falling to pieces.

On the back of an ancient ten-ton truck - the only QGE vehicle with a deck wide enough for the load - the kiln made painstakingly slow progress over Lantau Island to a site at Tung Chung overlooking Chek Lap Kok. There it will remain under the care of the Antiquities and Monuments Department until it is incorporated inside the new airport complex.

The ancient kiln suffered a couple of cracks en route, but nothing serious, much to the delight of the archaeologists and the relief of the sappers.

Welcomed - by a hero of the Union

SHORTLY before the Soviet Union finally disintegrated, a SOLDIER team made an exclusive visit to the Soviet Western Group of Forces headquarters south of Berlin where it was given a frank interview with staff arranging the withdrawal of troops to the motherland.

Writer Gordon Skilling and photographer Mike Perring were later hosted by a motor rifle regiment commander, spoke to a Hero of the Soviet Union, watched Soviet soldiers at work and fired some of their company-level weapons.

The opportunity to meet senior Soviet officers over an excellent meal punctuated by vodka toasts was a particular privilege, coming only two days after Russian president Boris Yeltsin had visited the unit.

Col Vladimir Strelnikov at the HQ has had a soft spot for the British ever since his father flew Hurricanes in the Second World War.

His detailed briefing covered exact numbers of personnel and equipment being withdrawn, and the problems faced by soldiers without homes to go to.

Col Feyodor Pugachov, Commander of the Proskurovski Motor Rifle Regiment, welcomed the party to ranges just outside his barracks at Zossen Wunsdorf. The regiment had just gained the highest marks in their equivalent of the "Tactical Evaluation" and, after an impressive demonstration of their fire power, were given the afternoon off.

The colonel and his deputy, however, remained on duty for the benefit of SOLDIER, though a three-hour luncheon was a particularly pleasant venue for an interview.

Col Pugachov earned the highest Soviet gallantry award while serving as a recce captain in Afghanistan. As well as speaking openly and at length on a wide range of subjects, he

was keen to hear about British Army traditions and reorganisation.

The magazine team was accompanied by Maj Peter Owen-Edmunds, Welsh Guards, of the Berlin Forces British Liaison Team and ex-SOLDIER writer Mervyn Wynne-Jones, of the Berlin P Info staff. Two Welshmen and a Scot were able to describe some of the peculiarities of British uniforms, and why, for example, a Welsh regiment might resist an amalgamation

with an English.

Maj Owen-Edmunds did sterling work in explaining the ethos of the sergeants' mess and even found the right Russian words to describe the ecological considerations involved in providing the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders with badger sporrans.

The genuine warmth of the welcome extended to the British visitors and the frankness of senior officers is a measure of how the old "threat" has faded.



Col Vladimir Strelnikov shows Maj Peter Owen-Edmunds his Hurricane print

Thank you, Britain

COL Vladimir Strelnikov is happy his father was in a Hurricane when he was shot down during the Second World War. Soviet aircraft of the time were wooden and burned out in a couple of minutes, but pilots encased in the hard steel of a Hurricane had a much better chance.

He was shot down three times, but his Hurricane would burn for half an hour, letting him struggle 150km back to safety. And the emergency provisions included a bottle of cognac and "a good English gun" said Col Strelnikov. "Many pilots survived because of this aircraft and gun. Thank you."

Now, through SOLDIER, he has expressed his gratitude to Britain.

Col Strelnikov, of HQ Western Group of Forces south of Berlin,



T55-T1 tank recovery vehicles are among the engineer support equipment returning to the motherland



Soviet 'fly' fishing

SHOCK ARMY GOES HOME

THE FORMER Soviet Army, which generations of British soldiers have stood ready to repulse, is going home.

The 3rd Shock Army, along with five other armies of the Western Group of Forces, is sending back its T-80 tanks, its BMPs, its artillery, rocket launchers, helicopters and combat aircraft, which – during the Cold War years – aimed to be at Hanover by Day One, and the Channel by Day Three.

Col Vladimir Strelnikov, staff officer responsible for the withdrawal, told SOLDIER: "This is the last time I will ever be able to say there are six

armies in the Western Group of Forces (WGF): one air, two tank and three infantry."

The Soviets are making determined efforts to return all troops, families and equipment from the fatherland to the motherland by the end of 1994. Indeed, they are ahead of schedule.

The driving force behind this

is the Commander of WGF, Col Gen Matvej Burlakov, who managed the withdrawal of the Southern Group of Forces from Hungary despite an impossibly tight schedule.

The 3rd Shock Army's 7 and 12 Guards Tank Divisions have

already returned to the former Soviet Union and the headquarters has left Magdeburg.

Of the 546,000 Soviets,

including 208,400 families,

in the WGF at the start of 1991,

154,150, including 53,150

families, had returned by the

end of November, said Col

Strelnikov.

Fifty-eight garrisons had

been vacated.

Of 4,116 tanks, 1,498 have

gone (an extra division's worth

over the figure planned), 7,948

armoured vehicles have re-

duced by 2,290, 3,578 artillery

barrels are down by 1,210,

helicopters from 615 by 118,

and combat aircraft from 623 by 130, along with a quarter of the 2.6m tons of material and an estimated 260,000 of the 677,000 tons of ammunition.

"Everything is checked by

the Germans, who count every

wagon," said Col Strelnikov.

As a sign of good intent,

fighting units are being

withdrawn first.

Of 19 tank and infantry

divisions,

and one artillery

division, four divisions with-

drew from Germany last year,

plus extra tank regiments from

other divisions.

Col Strelnikov pointed out

that Soviet nuclear weapons

had been removed in 1991, though this had not been required by the various agreements.

There was considerable suspicion as to whether this had actually happened until the empty bunkers were inspected.

With this gesture, he hoped that nuclear confrontation would now be a thing of the past.

"I visited many wine cellars

when I served in Hungary,"

declared the colonel with a wide grin, "and it seems not a bad idea to use the bunkers as wine cellars!"

Many will drink to that . . .



Col Feyodor Pugachov demonstrates the BG-15 45mm grenade launcher on the Kalashnikov AK-74

Now the cause of fear lies to the East

THE SOVIET soldier no longer looks West. He looks East at the disintegration of his motherland and over his shoulder at former allies.

They are difficult new dimensions for a commander to deal with. Col Feyodor Pugachov, Commander of the Proskurovski Red Banner 2nd Degree Kutusov and Suvorov Orders Motor Rifle Regiment at Wunsdorf, has 49 nationalities under his command, and their loyalty to a central army is now in doubt.

As far as he is concerned, they all wear the same uniform and nationality makes no difference to him. Their traditions stem from the sacrifice of the "Great Patriotic War", which is kept fresh in the soldiers' minds. His regiment venerates its 45 Heroes of the Soviet Union.

It comes as a shock to find themselves rejected by former Warsaw Pact countries, who now cannot wait to get them out. Last year there were more than 200 serious attacks on Soviet soldiers, and three

murders (though one was probably black-market inspired).

A Second World War hero's monument was desecrated in Lithuania and had to be returned to Moscow.

Faced by turmoil and divided loyalties, keeping peace on the streets is not a task the Army wishes to take on. It has done so before, but senior officers now admit it was a crime to have tanks on the streets.

But the red army has split, soldiers are being called back to their native republics to form national guards. Russians are not wanted in the Ukrainian army.

Uzbeks don't want to be in the Russian army, Georgians want nothing to do with anybody.

For proud soldiers whose capability so recently ruled a mighty empire, it is a difficult end, while the world looks on anxiously to see if the new Commonwealth of Independent States can live as harmoniously as the British Commonwealth.



Facing an uncertain future



The battle route of the regiment enshrines its traditions

The new peacekeepers?

SOVIET eyes watched the war in the Gulf with particular interest. Half were for Saddam Hussein, half were for the Allies.

Motor rifle regiment commander Col Feyodor Pugachov was impressed by the large numbers of aircraft, the space to manoeuvre and the use of electronic warfare which meant

that equipment could be used instead of people.

"It is easy to buy new material, but it is difficult to grow new people," he said.

Col Dmitrij Timaschkow, Public Relations Chief for the WGF and a former Soviet observer in the Middle East, felt the Soviet Army could play a peacekeeping role as do

Britain and the United States.

"During the Persian conflict we supported the multinational forces politically, but of course we could do it by another means – militarily. We have 18 supervisors in Damascus and 18 in Cairo, and it was a good experience, and I think there is an opportunity for us to operate in the United Nations."



The AGS 17 grenade launcher can spread 29 rounds per magazine over 1 km away and is an excellent saturation weapon



The AGS 17 grenade launcher can spread 29 rounds per magazine over 1 km away and is an excellent saturation weapon

Huge problems face the 'seventh army'

expect to be paid for the installations they leave behind. The Germans don't agree.

"Of our 36 airfields, 28 were built and repaired with our money, and we would like to have it back, but the Germans see no need for this," said the colonel. "We would like to feel our schools, buildings and houses are going to be used, but working this out is going very badly."

The Soviets, like the British, are discovering the green dimension, but it is causing them a much more serious problem after years of neglect.

"In 1991, 12,000 families left the WGF but we only had quarters for 3,000. We don't know what to do with the other 9,000," he said.

The Soviets expected 100,000 quarters to be built, but the main building programme is not scheduled until 1992. Had they postponed their move, however, they would have aroused suspicion.

The Soviets value their assets at some DM10.7 billion and

much range litter following combat activities. We are going to solve this problem and leave a clean Germany behind. Every day, 20,000 of our soldiers are working at this.

"By order of the C-in-C, every division to be withdrawn will stop combat training for the last six months and deal only with ecological clearing and preparation for their withdrawal."

BERLIN: CITY



Former enemies discuss removing the scar left by the Wall. The danger area will become a nature reserve

TIMES have changed in Berlin. British soldiers stroll along the peritrack once used by East German police hunting people trying to escape over the Wall.

Resourceful PTI LCpl Marc Corner uses it and the anti-vehicle ditch to keep the Royal Welch Fusiliers fit. He dug up "Eastie Beastie" telegraph poles to add to the variety and effort.

Wives have stopped placing

Now blockade rations feed the hungry people of Russia

shopping orders with FRIS (Families Ration Issue System), started after the Berlin blockade in case the Soviets tried to starve West Berlin into surrender. No longer needing emergency stocks of food, the garrison now sends food to starving Russians.

Other signs are the departure in July of the 1st Battalion, The



LCpl Marc Corner can take the RWF for longer runs now - with East German telegraph poles!

Royal Welch Fusiliers for Tidworth and the 14th/20th King's Hussars' squadron back to their parent unit in Munster.

The Irish Guards are due to be replaced by The Queen's Lancashire Regiment in April. The garrison will then have only two infantry battalions plus brigade headquarters and ancillary units and no armoured squadron.

It is difficult to grasp that the Wall has really gone, but hawkers are selling bits of it, along with Soviet and East German kit, from furry caps and gas masks to jackboots. Weapons are also available.

A dozen matronly ladies from the East stood amazed as the resplendent Royal Welch Fusiliers Goat Majors and their charges were photographed at the eastern side of the Brandenburg Gate, yards from where people died trying to cross the Wall.

What were British soldiers doing in Berlin, the women wanted to know. They were told: the same as the Irish Guards, The Gordon Highlanders, the 14th/20th King's Hussars, plus sundry American and French soldiers.

They were in Berlin to stop West Berlin going the way of East Berlin. Just as soon as the remnants of the former Soviet Army returned home, that particular insurance policy

OF CHANGE



More shopping at supermarkets is necessary now that FRIS baskets are redundant

would no longer be needed.

The ladies were anxious to make contact. They knew a deeper humiliation than West Berliners after 1945; they remembered the revolt in 1953,

repression and the mass exodus in 1961 which led to the Wall.

The momentous political changes affect these women more than the soldier in his day-to-day job. The disappearance of the Soviet bogeyman does not mean the soldier has no job. The brigade still trains to operate at a certain capability regardless of whichever threat is current.

"There is nothing new in this," said the Berlin Brigade Commander, Brig David Bromhead.

"The bread-and-butter work of being an efficient soldier and passing mandatory tests carries on, and the diet of training for a Berlin infantry battalion is as good as money can buy."



Brig David Bromhead

he admitted, they would have used chemical weapons on us - they were just another weapon.

Civilians who had hated the Wall were now sad to see the peritrack go. It was ideal for a walk with the dog. British soldiers will also be sad to leave Berlin, but the reduced brigade

will remain for a while, in the background, watching East and West come together, watching one threat recede. Training for unknown new threats goes on.

Royal Welch

prepare for

homecoming

FIRST major unit to return from Berlin in response to the Soviet withdrawals will be the Royal Welch Fusiliers, ready for home after an extended Berlin tour preceded by one in Northern Ireland.

"We feel we owe the people of Wales quite a lot for their campaign to save us from amalgamation, the first time all Welsh politicians have spoken with a single voice," said commanding officer Lt Col Bob Lloyd.

He was delighted to return to the regiment from the British contingent of the Multi-Force Organisation in Sinai, even if 1 RWF is shortly to leave its

plum posting in Berlin. He was back in his extended Welsh family.

The family has done well in his two-year absence. Fusiliers had taken first and fifth out of 40 places in an international patrol competition in Austria and were back with tales from the Vienna woods: "... a thousand metres up in atrocious weather, but you're used to that when you've done Junior Brecon," said Sgt Allan Poole.

He was pleased at the result because many of the other armies involved don't teach recce at platoon level, leaving it

● Turn to Page 33

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The RWF drums platoon takes some beating as BAOR machine gun sustained fire champions

● **From Page 31**

to their special forces.

"It was like something out of Indiana Jones, sliding 200ft from the top of a mountain and jumping into fast-flowing streams," added Sgt David Martin, winning team leader after achieving fifth and 12th places in previous years.

Drum Major David Beer and his platoon rule the BAOR roost in machine gun sustained fire but consider they took a musical beating at one international function. The Soviets do not have a drum corps but they

stole the show with their up-beat Glenn Miller numbers, singers, dancers and choir.

Battlefield tours have a new dimension now, with Zhukov's forcing of the Oder at the Seelow Heights in April 1945 within easy distance. The Royal Welchmen took ten officers and SNCOs into Poland to hear from two German veterans how they coped with advancing in 1939 and withdrawing in 1944. Their study day afterwards was equally fascinating.

Friendly battles are now not unusual. Their BAOR champ-

ionship winning rugby team was one of the first Western teams to play in Leipzig, and the Royal Welchmen are delighted to have the Soviets playing and even winning the multi-nation football competition, though LCpl Karl Roberts mutters about them drafting in a Dynamo Kiev striker.

Despite the good life and facilities, the Royal Welchmen want new challenges at Tidworth in the summer and hope to join the Rapid Reaction

Corps, where they will be able to revert to a sustained exercise period of battalion, brigade and divisional soldiering.

"It is what soldiers join the Army to do," said Capt Sean Price. "The threat is no longer from one direction, it is a worldwide secur-

ity problem, with many places round the world where we may be called just to do a job of security and peace-restoring. We must be ready to go anywhere, any time."



Lt Col Bob Lloyd, CO 1RWF



Winners of the Vienna patrol competition are Sgt Martin, Cpls Hughes and Owen, and LCpl Williams

Personally speaking

Redundee roadshow on the go

HOT on the heels of the Manning presentation team, the Army's Personal Services Roadshow this month begins a hectic programme of visits to garrisons, regiments and units at home and overseas.

For the next three months the team from a department of the Directorate General of Personal Services will advise redundants on housing, resettlement, financial and welfare support matters.

The plan is to cover Cyprus and Hong Kong in February, and BAOR, Northern Ireland and UKLF Districts in March and April. A videotape of the presentation will be available in locations the Roadshow cannot visit.

Because money is the key to housing and resettlement, new one-day seminars on finance in addition to the PS Roadshow are also to be introduced for those being made redundant.

The programme will cater for up to 50 at a

time, and will be reinforced if necessary by local briefings arranged by Army Pay Services.

Everyone who attends the seminars, due to start at the beginning of March, will be encouraged to take independent advice on an individual basis.

Those attending should be up to speed with their individual requirements so they can make best use of the visiting experts.

HQ BAOR is publishing booklets for redundants

intending to remain in Germany and take local discharge. Although no expenditure in excess of the UK entitlement will be sanctioned, personnel may take their resettlement training through a civilian attachment in the country of their choice.

For those serving overseas, MoD is seeking Treasury approval for two extra return flights to the UK to attend interviews. It has also agreed that redundants will be released if a job comes up earlier than expected.



Meet the men who run the new tri-Service office in Empress State Building dedicated to the allocation of married quarters to personnel posted to the Ministry of Defence. From left to right are Lt Col Tony Twiss, head of the Joint Services Married Quarters Co-ordination Office (JSMQCO), RN-sponsored civilian Robert Hesmodhalgh, and WO David Harris of the RAF

Inland Revenue rules prevent Servicemen who buy discounted houses from selling them within five years, unlike the local authority "Right to Buy" scheme which allows former tenants to sell after three years.

The extra two years could be crucial to a family requiring mobility when it comes to job-hunting, so MoD and PL (Lands) are examining the possibility of waiving the time bar. Because there are tax implications, the MoD has

to have the Inland Revenue's consent.

The problem of personnel returning to the UK with less than six months to serve at a duty station – which means they are not entitled to quarters or Excess Rent Allowance – is also being addressed.

Where individual difficulties arise, as they surely will, Helplines will be available within UK Commands and the MoD during working hours. To avoid extra costs, military lines and fax machines will be

available. A Helpline for BAOR redundants has yet to be agreed.

HQ BAOR has already put out radio and television programmes on BFBS, and the MoD is looking into a Teletext service for personnel in Cyprus and Gibraltar, which it is hoped will be operational by the middle of this year.

Army personnel are entitled to request an advance of an Assisted House Purchase Loan (AHP) of £5,000 for house purchase when they are in

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone: 0276 29653



Housed and happy – in Northampton

Dear Anne,

Having read yet another letter from somebody who was refused housing by a local authority I felt I had to write in praise of Northampton Borough Council.

In July 1988 we put ourselves on their housing list although my husband had already signed off and was due to leave the Army officially in June 1989.

As his run-out date got closer I began to worry where we would live. We received a letter from the council in April giving us the address of a house we could look at. After inspecting it we signed the tenancy agreement and

moved in two weeks later. I have nothing but praise for the people who made my husband's change from an Army environment to civvy street a lot less stressful by providing housing for our family.

After reading your column and learning about the problems other people have had I feel we were very lucky with our choice of council.

My husband was born and brought up here, and thanks to the Northampton Borough Council I feel as much at home here as I did in Aldershot – **Amanda J Pickering, Northampton.**

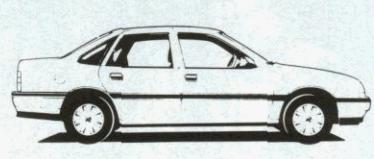


The London-based Tri-Service Resettlement Office has moved from Empress State Building to St George's Court. Pictured producing the weekly vacancies supplement are (front, from left) Maj Jerry Leach, Peter Clifton-Green and Rob Drake, and (rear) Martin Winterton and Andrew Baker. About 11,500 copies of the supplement will circulate worldwide at unit level.

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their last two years of service or over 50. The Royal Navy has a different system which permits an advance of £8,500. A case has been submitted for equal treatment.

A case has also been submitted for an interest-free loan of 28 days' gross pay for redundants in their last six months to help with additional costs.

The booklets *Bridging the Gap* and *Stepping Out* will be ready for issue by the end of this month.

Thirteen more SSAFA social workers have been requested for the UK to help with the expected increase in referrals during the Drawdown period. It has already been agreed that the resettlement service will have ten more officers in BAOR and seven in UKLF, with more to come in 1993. All will have access to computers.

Herford job centre trial

A BAOR job centre is to be opened in Herford for a trial period funded by the Department of Employment. It will have a staff of five and will be open to all Servicemen, dependants and civilians.

If it is a success, the Director of Army Education will bid for additional funds to extend the scheme.

DURING the Gulf War the British Army sent psychiatric teams into the field to counsel soldiers about to go into battle. I asked Brig Peter Abraham, Director of Army Psychiatry, how successful this had been, and to outline what help was available now to Servicemen suffering from stress induced by the war.

He told me:

On January 23, 1991 both BBC and ITN carried a news item about the most forward of the Army's psychiatric teams deployed in the Gulf. The newsmen called them our secret weapon.

Although all personnel are supposed to be introduced to the topic of dealing with battle-shock as part of their first aid training, as a result of the team talking in turn to each of the fighting units of 7 and 4 Armoured Brigades, the men began to understand that reacting to the extreme conditions of battle was normal and that a few might need help in coping with it.

In some cases, in spite of these and other measures, ill effects such as painful memories intruding into everyday life persist for too long. It is important then for

the sufferer to accept medical help, not only to have the opportunity of relieving his distress but also to safeguard his career.

Unless commanders are made aware of the true nature of the problem they are liable to attribute jumpiness or impaired concentration unfairly to drink or simple incompetence, views which will be reflected in annual reports and lack of promotion.

Conversely, with the understanding of his unit and the help of family and friends, a man can get back to a normal life and career.

Families do have a part to play. If they are unable to get through to the unit or its medical centre they can seek advice through the nearest SSAFA representative. The SSAFA Head Office telephone

number in London is 071-403 8783.

Among resources available in peacetime are the local Community Psychiatric Teams, many of which were in the Gulf. They are based in Aldershot, Woolwich, Tidworth, Catterick, Rheindahlen, Rinteln, Hanover, Iserlohn, Berlin, the Falkland Islands, Cyprus and Northern Ireland.

For those who have left the Services, help is available from the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (tel: 081-543 6333). The Society can advise and put ex-Servicemen in touch with others with similar problems.

For medical reservists who served in the Gulf who want to contact each other, whether or not they have a problem, Colin Purcell-Lee (tel: 0942 896 855) has volunteered to help.

Of course, anyone in receipt of a pension for an attributable disability is entitled to treatment in a Service hospital if he or she needs it. Many other ex-Servicemen who do not come in this category have also been helped at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich.

Coping with the stress of war

Watery way to battle

IT WAS the threat of invasion by Napoleon which alerted the government of the day to the fact that fast troop movements to Channel ports were vital.

Since going by boat was twice as fast as on foot, new canals were built and thousands of soldiers and their families were transported in this fashion for nearly 50 years until the introduction of the railways and better roads.

The story of waterborne troop transport is told in *The Military on English Waterways 1798-1844*. Well illustrated with photographs, maps and a catalogue of travel times and costs, it is described in the foreword by Lt Col Sir Julian Paget, Editor of *The Guards Magazine*, as "an intriguing piece of history". - JM

The Military on English Waterways 1798-1844 by Hugh J Compton and Antony Carr-Gomm. Railway and Canal Historical Society, softback, £9.95. Available post free from RCHS Sales Officer, 23 Beanfield Avenue, Coventry CV3 6NZ.

New guide to ACVs of Nato

WHILE main battle tanks are a well-known symbol of modern armoured forces, they are complemented and outnumbered by many other types.

These range from tank-derived recovery and bridging vehicles down to troop carriers and armoured vehicles, all designed for a specific role.

The many varieties of wheeled and tracked combat vehicles used by Nato forces are covered in *Nato Armoured Combat Vehicles*, which is similar to earlier Fotofax titles but is larger in content with

● Turn to next page

Nigel Poett: The most agreeable of commanders

GEN Sir Nigel Poett died on October 29, 1991, one month, almost to the day, before the publication of his autobiography.

Unlike the memoirs of many generals, Sir Nigel's *Pure Poett* does not burden the reader with vitriolic criticism of the writer's contemporaries.

The only adverse comments that can be found are such mild observations as: "Monty and Tedder disliked each other intensely" and, when telling of his first meeting with Churchill: "The PM then started walking up and down behind the table, talking about the war and criticising a recent withdrawal that had taken place in the Middle East. I unwisely drew his attention to the lack of administrative backing. The PM's reply was: 'Nonsense, bad Generalship', meaning General Wavell."

Even these second-hand

put-downs are few and far between. This most agreeable of commanders preferred to see his fellows at their best: "I only knew General Harding by reputation but it would be no exaggeration to say that he was the best-loved General in the army."

Nigel Poett was gazetted to The Durham Light Infantry on September 1, 1927, and the story of his military career starts as a young officer in India and Egypt in the late 1920s and 1930s, with the usual pre-war routine of sport and regimental duty – seemingly in that order.

Every career has its fulcrum



Gen Sir Nigel Poett

moment and that of Poett came unexpectedly. "At Llanelli one morning early in May 1943, I went into my office and found waiting for me a letter from the Military Secretary at the War Office telling me that I had been selected to command a Parachute Brigade and asking

World War brought him rapid promotion and well-deserved recognition in airborne warfare, which was then entirely new to the British Army. Although he describes the Normandy landings and subsequent operations in detail, there is a remarkably modest dismissal of the Ardennes battle in a single paragraph.

Then comes the airborne

part in the assault across the Rhine and the final dash to the Baltic, all contributing to the tempering of Poett for senior post-war appointments.

"Then the time came for me to leave. I had formed the 5th Parachute Brigade . . . and had commanded them, throughout the successful Normandy campaign and afterwards, for close on three years. They were my friends, indeed, I felt, part of my family."

In peacetime, he was made commander of the 3rd Division, and later became Director of Plans at the War Office, leading to the Directorship of Military Operations at the time of the Suez campaign in 1956.

Then followed a spell as Commandant of the Staff College, and finally the appointment of Commander-in-Chief Far East Land Forces between 1961 and 1966, when a new structure meant that the post would be held by an admiral.

Nigel Poett appears to have had little of the driving ambition that has taken others to the highest appointments but, as Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley wrote in an obituary for *The Independent*, he was "one of those exceptional officers whose talents flourished in command of troops and on the staff in war and peace."

It is appropriate to leave the final words to this unassuming soldier: "Now our hope is that the Army will continue to offer to our successors as much interest and fun as we have enjoyed for more than thirty years." - BJ

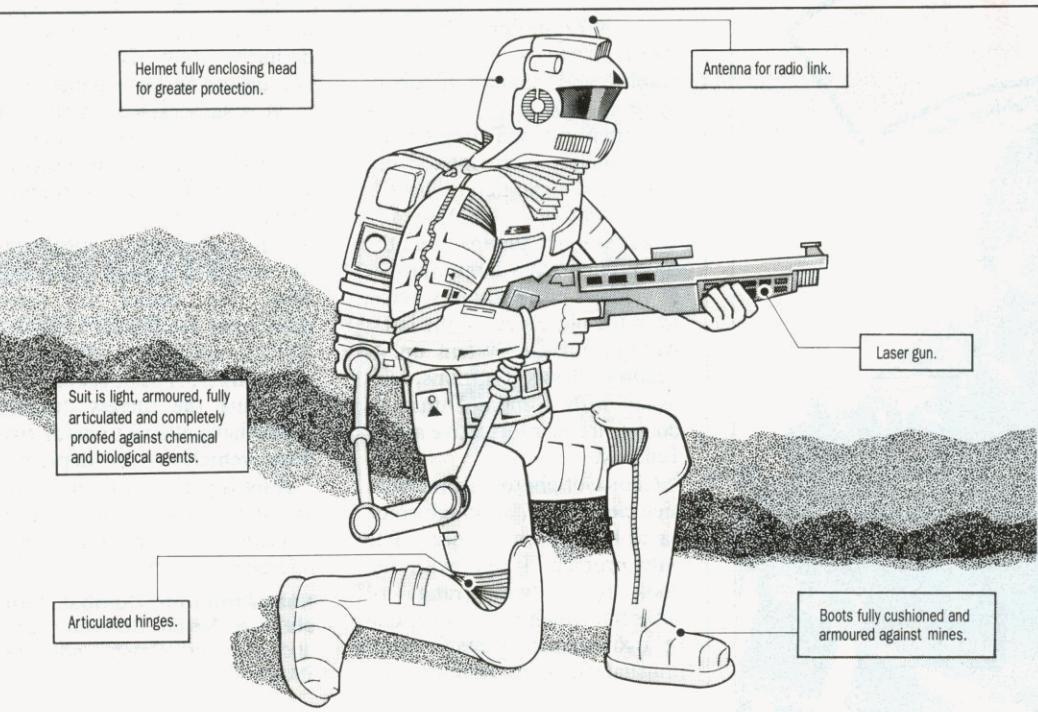
Pure Poett: The Autobiography of General Sir Nigel Poett, published by Leo Cooper, Pen and Sword Books, hardback, £18.50.

Even these second-hand

'Not tonight Josephine, I'm reading the new Sharpe'

Out now in hardback £14.99 net

HarperCollinsPublishers



Armour clad warrior of the next century, from the pages of *High Tech Warfare*

Fighting future

A RECENT TV news item showed a policeman clad in an armoured red plastic suit and looking like something from outer space.

Although not yet an everyday reality, the suit is a strong contender for further development and being issued to the boys in blue for riot protection.

Now, according to Robert Jackson in *High-Tech Warfare*, the infantryman of the future could look very similar when going into battle.

Devoting 44 pages of 162 to the Army past, present and future, he illustrates his vision of a 21st Century foot-slogger.

A sketch shows a man

Books in brief

On Future War by Martin van Creveld. Described on the dust jacket as "the most radical interpretation of armed conflict since Clausewitz". Thought-provoking. Brassey's, hardback, £22.50.

And All My War Is Done by Stephen Abbott. As a 23-year-old subaltern the author (who died in 1987) was the senior Allied officer in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp and this book tells the grim story. The Pentland Press, hardback, £12.50.

Nostalgia Isn't a Goal by Pat Managhan. The joys of National Service told in amusing, quickfire dialogue by a former corporal, Royal Engineers. The Adelphi Press, softback, £9.95.

Das Reich by James Lucas.

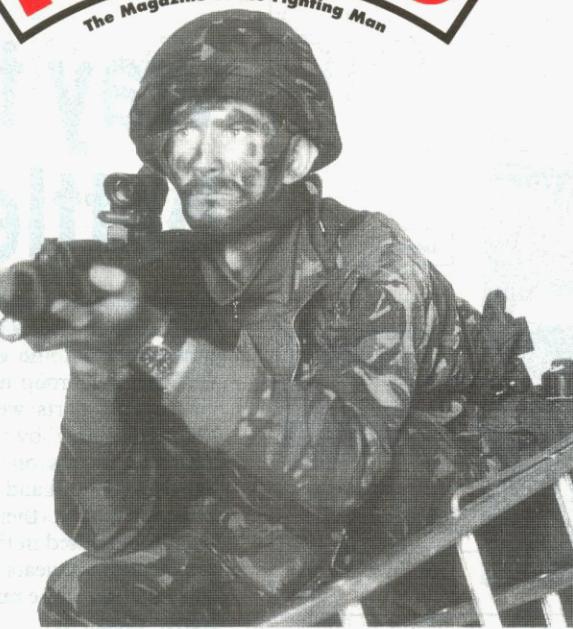
Study of the military role of the 2nd SS Division. Arms and Armour, hardback, £14.95.

Infantry Aces of the Reich by Gordon Williamson. Portraits of bravery performed by 32 foot soldiers. Follow-up to *Aces of the Reich*. Arms and Armour, hardback, £14.95.

High-Tech Warfare, the Weaponry Explained, by Robert Jackson. Headline Book Publishing plc, £14.95.

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“Royal Marines: Fit to Fight in the Frozen Wastes” – *Raids*, Oct 1991

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BOOK REVIEWS

● From Page 37

about twice as many photographs and plans, at about twice the price.

Content includes French and US vehicles, often missed out or covered separately. The 171 black-and-white photos and three colour photos on the cover illustrate a large number of vehicles currently in service, from the old Ferret to the latest ADATs missile system on its Bradley chassis. Captions, as is usual with Simon Dunstan’s books, are as informative as any full text.

Choice of photos is good with nice clear shots, although some have been seen before. The only problem I find with the book is its wide range of subjects, which means only one or two photos of many often unusual subjects, making this

more an appetizer than a definitive study. But then it is not meant to be exhaustive.

A comparative table of details of current infantry combat vehicles and five sets of vehicle plans are included. These are five-view studies useful to modellers, but watch out for the variety of scales! Also, the choice of three versions of the Dutch YPR-765 APC is an odd one, as they are very similar. A basic set of plans with just the turrets “extra” would have allowed one or two more vehicles to be depicted.

A lot is packed into this book and it is a good addition to a collection of modern AFV references. – PB

Nato Armoured Combat Vehicles by Simon Dunstan. Arms and Armour Press, softback, £9.95.

Picture history of Lancaster's Lions

ALL the regiments of the British Army have masses of photographs in their museums or in mess albums.

But few can have taken the trouble to assemble a selection of 300, many of which have never been published before, in a well-edited book – as have The King’s Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) in *Lions of England*.

As Stuart Eastwood, the author and museum curator, says, the selection was difficult “and without doubt the hardest decision has been what to leave out.”

“The choice has been governed by the quality of the original image, the variety of the subject and the condition of the photograph.”

The net result is very effective and although there are the inevitable group photographs these usually include the names, which is a bonus.

There are also gems, such as “The troopship *Serapis* at Dover harbour disembarking the 1st Battalion on return from Abyssinia in 1868”, “The cookhouse and staff of 2nd Battalion in Raglan Barracks, Devonport, 1897”, and “The 2nd Battalion marching to Spion Kop in January 1900 (many of whom were killed or wounded)”.

There are also three interest-

ing photographs of barrack rooms in 1897, 1933, 1951 which are worth comparison.

The captions are excellent, often giving details of what happened to individuals; one is left to assume, however, that the Lt Col N M Ritchie on Page 115 later became Gen Sir Neil Ritchie.

One also learns, surprisingly, that all the Pioneers were allowed to wear beards (Page 47) rather than just the platoon sergeant.

The book does not pretend to be a definitive history, but rather as complementary to the three-volume work written by the Cowper family (father, Vols I and II, and daughter Vol III), but each of the nine chapters has been prefaced by a concise and well-written account of the period covered.

There are also some interesting appendices, one of which gives the citations and a short biography of all the recipients of the Victoria and George Crosses.

This is an excellent production worthy of a wide distribution which may sadly be restricted by the price. – PSN

Lions of England. A pictorial history of The King’s Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster), by Stuart Eastwood. Silver Link Publishing Ltd, hardback, £30.

LETTERS

Write to:
SOLDIER,
Ordnance Road,
Aldershot,
Hants GU11 2DU.

A Scotch broth of officers

A RECENT note in the *Daily Telegraph*, referring to a **SOLDIER** report on the forthcoming merger of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment (Sassenach) and the 4th Royal Tank Regiment (fiercely Scottish), implied that the amalgamation was likely to be a difficult one.

Might it not be regarded instead as a happy resumption by the former of its original Scottish connections?

In 1917 my late father-in-law, Ernest Urquhart, a Scot from Dundee, joined A Battalion of the Tank Corps, a lineal ancestor of 1 RTR. He fought as a tank commander at Cambrai.

In the library of the Tank Museum at Bovington an unsigned memorandum headed "Notes on 1st Battalion, Royal Tank Corps" ends:

"The 1st Battalion was a very curious battalion. The men were mostly Scotch and a very fine body, well educated, much like the men we have today.

"The officers were all temporary, only the CO and two of the company commanders were Regulars at any time, and most of them were from the underworld and some pretty hard cases, but they behaved well according to their lights, viz. when they broke up a pub they paid for it as a rule, and when they threw a policeman over the bridge at Amiens two dived in and pulled him out.

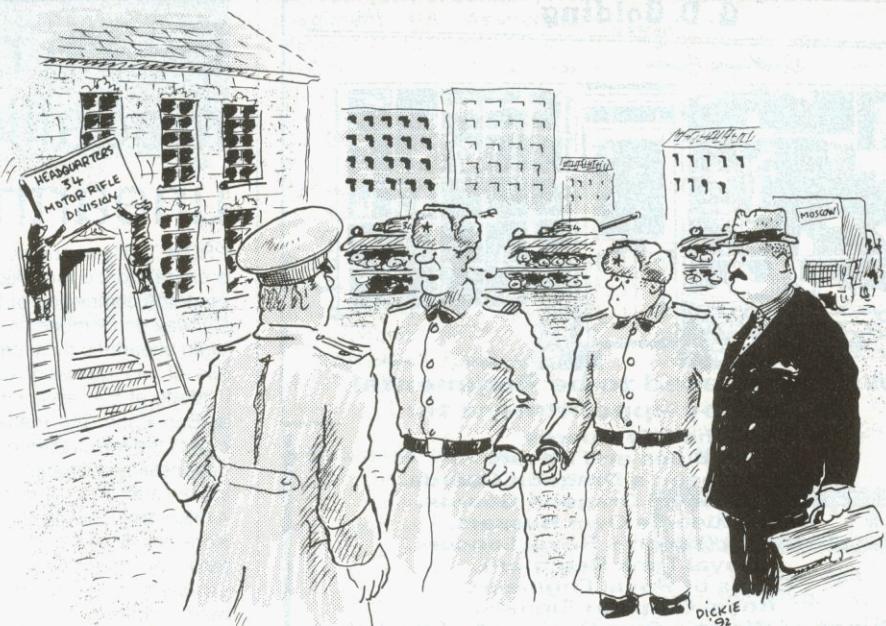
"The proceeds of a looted brewery and French cattle sold by auction were given to the men.

"I mention these things because the curious thing is that the esprit de corps and fighting efficiency of this battalion are the finest things I have ever seen, and during the 18 months I had the honour to serve with them I never remember a case of an officer or man being absent or run in for slackness or inefficiency.

"The battalion flag was plain red, and the battalion was known to the French as 'La Battalion Rouge'."

Who could ask for a better testimonial? — Nicol Smith, Westbury, Wiltshire.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



'Herr Gruber insists that Pte Ronovich sold him vacant possession of our HQ building for DM10,000, Sir!'

• Soviets tell **SOLDIER** how their "drawdown" is going. See Pages 26-29

Statue appeal for Alanbrooke

From Fd Marshal Lord Carver

WHILE we have been enjoying the BBC's series on Sir Winston Churchill, may I remind your readers that the British Army is preparing to honour another of Churchill's generals with a statue in Whitehall later this year.

Churchill's chief military adviser was Gen Alan Brooke, later Fd Marshal the Viscount Alanbrooke. As Chief of the Imperial General Staff from 1941 to 1946, he was responsible for making sound military sense out of Churchill's

inspirations. Yet he was the one great wartime leader who has not yet been honoured with a statue.

The Royal Artillery is planning to put that right by commissioning a sculptor to begin work, and inviting all soldiers who remember the importance of Alanbrooke's contributions to give a donation. But for him and his team, we would not enjoy the freedoms we do today.

So I do urge your readers to give generously to this appeal and thus play their part in helping to construct a national memorial.

Let's see another soldier on a plinth in Whitehall among the military greats, as a noble reminder to future generations of the importance of Alanbrooke as a brilliant military strategist.

Donations may be sent to: The Alanbrooke Memorial Statue Appeal Fund, PO Box 438, Cambridge CB2 2BZ. — Michael Carver, President, Alanbrooke Memorial Statue Appeal Fund.

Queen's 'first' intake

WITH the advent on February 6, 1992 of the 40th anniversary of the Queen's accession, I wonder if the number 5203 means anything to your older readers, particularly National Servicemen?

This number was the third National Service intake of 1952, which occurred on February 7, and of which I was a part.

I suppose this was the most notable event of my Army service. To be called up was an inconvenience but the death of the monarch added a new dimension, since, cut off as we were from the outside world, news was hard to come by.

There were no wireless sets in the barrack rooms, television was only just starting up, and newspapers scarce, particularly if you were late for breakfast.

Incidentally, food was still rationed and an Army ration card had to be presented at all mealtimes in the cookhouse.

Our intake was soon knocked into shape on the barrack square so that we could march with the rest of the battalion to a memorial service in Honiton.

— W G A Desley (ex-REME), Quinton, Birmingham.

Royal Tanks

CAN anyone please confirm that of all the tank regiments formed during the Second World War, only eight were allowed the prefix Royal? — Taff Harris (ex-7 RTR), Yeovil, Somerset

● All tank regiments were "Royal" throughout the Second World War. They were amalgamated into 1945. — Editor

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The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.
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The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters.
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The Light Infantry.
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The Royal Army Educational Corps.
Royal Army Dental Corps.
Royal Pioneer Corps.
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Army Physical Training Corps.
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SOLDIER to Soldier

Death rail medallion unearthed

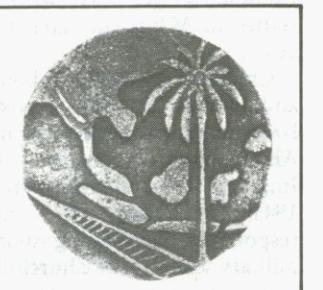
FROM Thailand comes news that a crude bronze medallion cast to mark the completion of the Death Railway on October 17, 1943 has been unearthed by a farmer at the site of Hin Dat work camp.

Made at the railway workshops at Ban Pong, the medallion was one of the few presented to select Japanese at a special ceremony a week after the joining of the 415km-long Burma-Siam line at Konkuita. It had cost the lives of tens of thousands of Allied prisoners of war, and the health of many more.

The medallion was shown to a group of visiting Australians and New Zealanders, including Sir William Keys, a prominent official with the Australian War Memorial (AWM) and, after the consumption of much local rice whisky, passed into Aussie hands.

Lt Col Terry Beaton, RAEME, working in the office of the Australian Defence Attaché in Bangkok, writes to tell us the medallion will serve not as a further reminder of suffering and sacrifice, but rather as an acknowledgement of an incredible feat of engineering under dire conditions.

Col Beaton spent two years exploring the original line of the Death Railway and is in the process of producing a guide to what he found. He hopes to have his draft ready for publication in the autumn.



The Japanese medallion presented at Konkuita on October 25, 1943

A year to remember

SOLDIERS of many generations have an interest in anniversaries falling in 1992. The Gulf War is still fresh, as is the Falklands conflict ten years ago. Among other more recent anniversaries are the

successful counter-insurgency wars in Brunei (1962) and Malaysia and the start of action against the Mau Mau in Kenya (1952).

Fifty years ago Singapore fell, the Sittang bridge was blown up too soon, Rangoon and Mandalay lost, and the Australians stopped the Japanese in Papua and New Guinea.

Rommel's brilliant second offensive took Tobruk (June 21) on the way to Alam Halfa, but Montgomery waited two months to ensure success when striking back at El Alamein (October 23). Also in 1942 was the first parachute raid, on Bruneval, the destruction of St Nazaire dry docks, the mainly Canadian sacrifice in Dieppe, and the formation of the SAS.

The mud of Passchendaele coloured perceptions years ago and the tank's potential was not exploited at Cambrai. Baghdad fell that year, 1917, as did Gaza after three attacks, and Jerusalem.

In 1902 the Boer War ended, in 1842 British soldiers were massacred in the Khyber Pass and in 1812 the Peninsular War continued and the North American war started.

Self-build seminar

SERVING, ex-serving and redundant personnel interested in self-building are advised to book early for a seminar to be held at Bagshot Park, Bagshot, Surrey, on Monday, March 16.

Places, for which there will be a charge, are limited to 50. Details are available from Judy Dugdale, Forces Seminar, 2 Upper York Street, St Paul's, Bristol BS2 8RH (tel: 0272 422972), or Community Self-Build Agency, 18 North Square, London EC1 (tel: 071-490 5563).

Grand Military Cup meeting

THE Grand Military Meeting, highlight of the British Army's racing calendar, takes place at Sandown on March 6 and 7. Concessionary badges for the Members Enclosure and Tattersalls are available for serving and retired members of HM Forces and dependants from the Grand Military Office, The King's Troop RHA, St John's Wood, London NW8 6PT (tel: 071-722 6462 ext 26).

The military races on Friday, March 6 are the Duke of Gloucester Memorial Hunter 'Chase and the Horse and Hound Grand Military Gold Cup, followed the next day by the Dick McCreery Cup Handicap 'Chase and the Barclays Bank Handicap Hurdle.



Stanley Jamieson in the Hohne cemetery where his brother is buried

Stanley returns to Hohne

SECOND World War soldier Stanley Jamieson from Edinburgh was the guest of 1 Armoured Field Ambulance based at Hohne when he returned to the area after nearly 50 years to visit his brother's grave.

His brother George died in his arms during heavy fighting near Hanover, and was buried at a military cemetery in Hohne. Both men were serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps.

The Hohne medics advertised for relatives of men buried in the cemetery to attend a memorial service they were planning and 74-year-old Stanley was the only person who replied.

Are you legally aware?

A POCKET booklet, "Legal Awareness", aimed at improving the overall efficiency of the defence procurement process - from major projects to minor

BRIEFINGS

since 1962. Wives and girlfriends welcome. Contact WO1 (YofS) Tony Reynolds, OC Radex Troop, 1 Sqn, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT1 8RH.

REUNIONS

138th (City of London) Field Regiment RA Association

Reunion Monday April 27 at the Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF. Details from Frank Flack, 22 Camborne Way, Hounslow TW5 0PW (tel: 081-570 5267). News from ex-members not on annual newsletter circulation welcome.

201 Fd Wksp REME(V)

21st anniversary reunion dinner, May 9 at Chelford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warks. All serving and ex-members invited. Details from Maj R Smith, 6 St John's Place, Liverpool 22 (tel: 051-928 4493).

50 Missile Club RA

Fourth annual reunion, May 23, Mayfair Hotel, Hartlepool. For membership and tickets apply to Mr A J Todd, 9 The Grove, Heathhall, Dumfries DG1 1TN (tel: 0387 62378 evenings only).

HMS Hydra 1982

Reunion being considered for mid-1992. Any wounded personnel carried by the ship during the Falklands War wishing to attend should contact CPO Joe Erskine, The Elms Guest House, 48 Victoria Road South, Southsea, Hants PO5 2BT (tel: 0705 823924) or HMS Ledbury, BFPO Ships.

59 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers

To mark the Squadron's 21st anniversary the biannual reunion will be held on May 1-3 at Crownhill Fort/Seaton Barracks, Plymouth, Devon. All ex-members, serving or retired, are asked to support the event. Details from Admin Officer, 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE, Seaton Barracks, Tavistock Road, Plymouth PL6 5DL (tel: 0752 772312 ext 276).

77 HAA Regt RA

Mr R C House, of 52 Templar Road, Paignton, South Devon TQ3 1EN, who left the regiment in 1957, seeks news of his former colleague Sgt Maj Button, of C Troop, BAOR 28, 37 Bty.

SEARCHLINE

Pte Charlie Salt, Reinbek near Hamburg, 1945-46: Mrs Gisela von Massow, at that time a displaced child, remembers with gratitude the kindness shown to her by this British soldier, whose last known addresses were Oldham and Glasgow. He, or anyone who can help, is asked to contact Mrs von Massow at Florastr 15, 4005 Meerbusch 1, Germany (tel: 49 2132 3818).

656 Air OP Squadron RAF/Army Air Corps: Anyone who served please contact Secretary 656 Squadron Association, H C (Bobby) Clark, 1 Marlborough Bld, Bow Street, Langport, Somerset TA10 9PR (tel: 0458 250009).

77 HAA Regt RA: Mr R C House, of 52 Templar Road, Paignton, South Devon TQ3 1EN, who left the regiment in 1957, seeks news of his former colleague Sgt Maj Button, of C Troop, BAOR 28, 37 Bty.

MILITARIA

Military books: A leaflet giving details of antiquarian and secondhand booksellers in the UK who specialise in military history may be obtained by sending a first class stamp to: Derek Hayles Military Books, 35 St Marks Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6DJ.

Alan R Newark: 1E Gertrude Place, Barhead, Glasgow G78 1JD, researching Russo-Scottish art, trade and culture at the 1901 Glasgow International Exhibition, would welcome information about Col V Sabatelli, Director of the Light Company Band, Imperial Life Guards Regiment and military bands which took part, and would like to hear from readers with access to the archives of countries which sent trade delegations to the exhibition.

DIARY

April 2-October 18: Special Falklands War exhibition at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

May 7-8: Helimeet international flying competition and helicopter exhibition, Stockbridge, Hants.

May 9-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show, Stockbridge, Hants.

June 13: Queen's Birthday Parade. Colour Trooped by 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

July 1-6: Armed Forces Week, a Tri-Services event on Plymouth Hoe.

July 8-28: The Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Box office tel: 071-373 8141).

July 17-25: Nijmegen Marches, Holland.

● To include public events in this diary contact the Editor.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

The pictures below differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Just circle the differences in the right hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 530, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by Feb 28. Do not include anything else in your envelope.

More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted.

The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the March 23 issue.

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COMPETITION 530**

Competition No 527: Well done, Mrs C J Arkieson, of Byfleet, Surrey, who wins the £50 prize. Runners-up Mrs C Canning, of Crickhowell, Powys, and Mr G Hall, of Barnstaple, N Devon, win book prizes.



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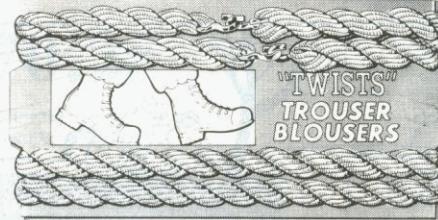
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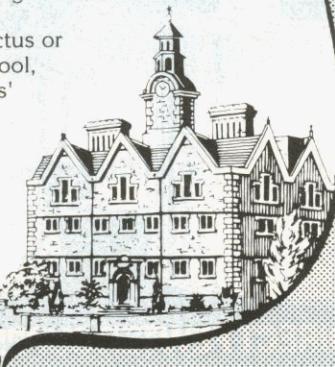
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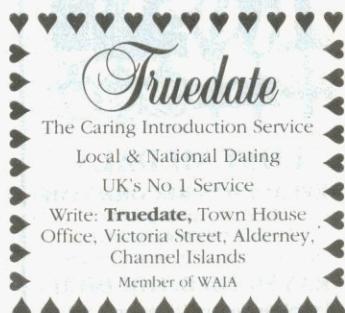
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Jane 28 years, 5'9" slim with dark hair and hazel eyes Loves motorbikes, the great outdoors, music and writing letters. Lives in sunny(?) Cumbria. I'll answer all letters, so make my day and drop me a line. Box P33 3/92

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Jennifer, aged 24 with blue eyes I would love someone to write to, why not you? I have brown hair and blue eyes with interests which include music, especially Queen, the cinema and going out. Write now, all letters answered. Box P38 7/92

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Lady aged 29 (single parent) seeks pen pal 28-32 years. Interests are music and football. All replies answered. Box P40 5/92

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To advertise in the Pen Pal section send a cheque/postal order for £11.75 (payable to Soldier) and a maximum of 35 words about yourself to the address opposite. Write Pen Pals in the top left corner of the envelope.

Sappers too strong in UK badminton finals

EIGHT Corps took part in the Inter-Corps badminton tournament at Worthy Down, with the Royal Engineers easily winning their league by convincingly beating the ACC and Royal Signals 9-0. They had a walkover against RAMC/RADC, who were unable to field a full team. Signals were runners-up to the sappers in the pool by beating the ACC 6-3.

RAPC finished top of league 2 by defeating the RCT 8-1,

REME 6-2 and RAOC 8-1 with the latter as runners-up, after a hard-fought tussle with RCT which they won 6-3.

The sappers revealed their strength by beating the RAOC 8-1 in the semi-final followed by another 8-1 win against the RAPC in the final to take the Inter-Corps title for a record sixth time. The sappers have recorded the most wins since the competition began in 1970.

Outstanding for the engineers was Spr Mark Bury, who recently joined the Army and has the potential to become a Combined Service player in the near future.

Although many of the results

were heavily one-sided, some matches were closely contested. The sappers' strength was evident in each match, where even the reserve pairing of LCpl Ray Arnold and Spr Sean Hudson defeated all opposition.

The Royal Engineers are certain to do well in the Inter-Corps final at Worthy Down on February 24. The decider will 'match' the UK-based sappers against the BAOR champions, the Royal Engineers!

Irish to the fore in Infantry skiing

KEEN competition is expected from Infantry skiers in the divisional and Army championships following a successful Alpine ski training camp at Val d'Isere.

After convincing wins in the slalom and giant slalom, clinching the individual events seemed a formality for last year's Army team rookie Capt Tim Lai (R Irish) but with a fall in the Super-G he left the way clear for evergreen Maj Bertie Grotrian (1 IG) to take the race and overall title.

New faces this year came from the Welsh Guards, the



The 40 Fd Regt team of LBdr Maclean, LBdr Martin, Lt Mansell, LBdr Smith and LBdr Wilkinson

Devon and Dorsets, Depot Scottish Div and Depot King's Div.

Old hands like the Gordon Highlanders were rejoined by the Grenadier Guards and the Queen's Own Highlanders, absent in the Gulf last year.

Guests from the Army Women's Services ski team and the Australian Defence Force ski team as well as local racers added spice but the Irish

Guards' team's experience and strength in depth, developed over several years, proved insurmountable and they swept the board in the team events.

Particularly strong was Cpl David Clark (1 IG), a virtual novice last year but now taking fifth place overall. Runners-up

in the team events were the Grenadier Guards in slalom and giant slalom, with veteran LSgt Jim Grey (2 Gren Gds) leading the way, and The Gordon Highlanders in the Super-G with an outstanding third place performance by Pte Jason Bruce (1 Gordons), who won the Best Junior and most improved skier awards.

A close battle among the novices had Lt John Mayo (Depot King's Div) sharing honours with Pte Mac McPheron (1 QO Hldrs).

Other prizewinners were Lt Jonathan Tunstall (Depot King's Div), slalom runner up and Capt Jonathan Tink (1 Gordons) Super-G runner up. Depot Scots Div are first to win a new trophy for Minor Units.

THE TURN of the year has brought a surge of news from the Army Rugby Union, some good and some not so good, writes John Quin.

The tremendous news of 2nd Lt Tim Rodber's first full England cap against Scotland in the opening 1992 Five Nations championship match was, of course, tempered by him having to leave the field after suffering a potentially serious injury half way through the second half.

However, it would appear that Tim, who is commissioning into The Green Howards, is rapidly on the mend and has been selected for the game against Ireland at Twickenham.

In fact, there were three Service players at Murrayfield

FROZEN OUT

that afternoon, Flt Lt Rory Underwood and Tim Rodber, of course, and sitting on the Scottish bench, dying to get on to the park for his first full international appearance was Army doctor Lt Rob Wainwright, RAMC.

Rob is to lead Scotland B against France, an appointment which suggests it will not be long before he gets a full cap.

Having lost their opening game rather heavily to a vibrant Hampshire XV in their build up to the Inter-Services challenge, there were glum Army faces around the Military Stadium when the second match against the Civil Service was lost to a frozen pitch.

Lost games at this stage work heavily against the Army

Bunde, while in the German Minor Units, 3 BAD take on BMH Rinteln for the Cup on February 5 at Düsseldorf.

Before Christmas the new Army merit tables got going and the Royal Marines were invited to take part, having had a long tradition with Army Corps rugby, although they are, of course, part of the Royal Navy RU.

The Marines repaid the gesture by winning the senior table. They beat the Royal Signals at Harrogate and collected the Army's Inter-Corps Merit Table Trophy from Maj Gen Archie Birtwhistle to take back to their trophy room in Plymouth.

Let's hope this is not an indicator of what is to come.

Same three dominate gunners' ski meeting

AFTER six weeks of training, seven Royal Artillery regiments and a guest team from 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment took part in the RA ski championships in Austria.

The giant slalom was won by Gnr Alan Pearson of 19 Fd Regt, with Bdr Gary Down (12 AD Regt) second and Lt Rob Mansell (40 Fd Regt) third.

They dominated the individual honours, going on to finish in the same order in the slalom and super giant slalom events.

Best overall unit was 40 Fd Regt, which also won the langlauf race trophy, 50 Msl Regt won the parallel slalom race and Lt Nick Adams (5 Hy Regt) was given the prize for the most improved skier.



Gnr Neil Sinclair (50 Msl Regt) in the gunners' slalom



LSgt Jim Grey, 2 Gren Gds, at the Infantry meeting

Tourists finish Gulf campaign on a high note

Oman 0, Combined Services 1

OUTSTANDING result of the Combined Services four-match tour of the Gulf was their 1-0 win over the Omani national side.

Gnr Mark Mahoney (7 Para RHA) headed in with almost his first touch of the ball after going on late in the match as a substitute.

Until then it had been a battle of the midfield, with the Services taking control only as their hosts tired. Mahoney's timely strike meant that the tourists flew home with three wins and a draw to their credit.

RSAF Select 0, Combined Services 2

In their second match, Services beat a Royal Saudi Air Force football team 2-0 before flying to the Oman for the second leg of their Gulf tour.

The game was decided by headed goals scored by the RAF pair, Sgt Craig Gill and

Cpl Alan Pluckrose, after which Services took control and were rarely threatened. Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR) and Pte Pete Batey (2 Para) went close to scoring.

SSI Nigel Wiscombe (APTC) had a quiet game in the Services goal.

In the opening match of the tour Combined Services beat an RSAF Technical Studies Institute team 3-0.

Sultan of Oman Armed Forces 1, Combined Services 1

Moving on to the Oman, Services did well to draw with an Armed Forces side which included five Omani internationals.

LReg Ken O'Donnell (RN) put the tourists ahead in six minutes from a free kick by Sgt Alan Higgins (R Signals), but it was soon apparent that the quick, short passing game of the Omanis was going to be difficult to contain.

Cfn Mike Taylor (REME) dealt with a number of dangerous situations before the home side equalised.

Services dominated the second period, with Batey and the Royal Navy's POMEM Steve Johnson both narrowly missing the target.

Army Challenge Cup

Reigning Army Challenge Cup (UK) champions, 1/3 Trg Regts RE were held to a 1-1 draw by 1 RHF in the fourth round of the 1992 competition and must win the replay to qualify for the quarter finals.

The other side of the draw is also undecided, with the winner of the 1/3 Trg Regt-1 RHF tie due to meet 19 Fd Regt RA, 1 Kings or 1 Para.

SEME Bordon, surprisingly beaten in the 1991 UK final, have an away tie against the Guards Depot, Pirbright, but that is the only clear-cut quarter final. In the other games, 1 BW or 2 Inf Div Sig Regt will meet 3 UDR, and 7 Para RHA or 30 Sig Regt will play host to 47 Fd Regt RA.



Para bobsleigh team in great form

Two members of the Airborne Forces bobsleigh team, LCpl Sean Olsson and LCpl Eric Sekwalor, will be representing Great Britain at the Winter Olympics in France this month. The team has had several outstanding successes in Europe this season. Pictured are (top, from left) LCpl Sean Olsson, Cpl Pat Hoyte, LCpl Rob Hinton, LCpl Dean Ward, LCpl Eric Sekwalor, Capt Colin Snowball; (bottom) Bdr Nigel Urquhart, LCpl Eric McCann, LCpl John Sowerby, LAEM(M) Steve Day, Sgt Mark Pitman, Sgt Nigel Partington and Cpl Steve Donnelly

Gurkhas win on Everest

BRITISH ARMY runners filled six of the top ten places in the Gulf Oil Everest Marathon, the world's highest and toughest race.

Only official military team in the race, which takes place every two years, were five Gurkhas from Hong Kong, led by Capt Alastair Kennedy, 2 GR, who competed in the 1989 event. The other Army runners were four private entries from the United Kingdom.

Rfn Chongba Sherpa (10 GR) finished second behind Switzerland's Pierre Andre Gobet, with Rfn Thambahadur Dega (GTR) third and Rfn Yambahadur Bahek (6 GR) fourth.

Capt Christopher Kemp, 2 Para, finished seventh, just in front of former Gurkha officer Maj Graham Gibbs, RE, now

serving at JDSC Warminster. Cpl Angus MacMillan (33 EOD Regt RE) was tenth, LCpl Kusang Kumar Gurung (2/2 GR), winner of the Mount Kinabalu race in Borneo, 12th, Rfn Narbahadur Bura (6 GR) 19th and Lt Rod Carrillo, (6 GR) 45th.

Seventy competitors trekked for 16 days just to reach the start at 17,000ft near Everest Base Camp. Several suffered from acute mountain sickness brought on by lack of oxygen and had to drop out.

Gobet completed the 26.2 mile course, which finished in the town of Namche Bazaar at 11,200ft, in 4hr 4min 8sec, 19

minutes ahead of Chongba Sherpa.

British Servicemen featured well in the team race. It was won by the Gurkhas and a scratch team made up of Gibbs, Kemp, MacMillan, St Athan-based Jim Groark and Steve Hollands of the RAF mountain rescue team, Royal Marine Deiter Loraine and Ginge Fullen of the Royal Navy finished in second place.

The next Everest Marathon, the fourth, will be staged in 1993. Details can be obtained from Diana Penny Sherpani, 3 Elim Grove, Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria LA23 2JN.

RAF back with a vengeance

ROYAL Air Force boxers marked their return to Inter-Services competition with a 7-3 win over the Royal Navy at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth.

It was the RAF's first victory over the Navy for 18 years.

After an absence of two years, the revitalised RAF squad were sure to provide a stern test for the Army when they met at RAF Halton on January 30.

The soldiers, who take on the Navy in Aldershot on February 13, are attempting to win the team championship for the ninth successive year.

THE ARMY'S WINTER OLYMPIANS – SEE PAGES 14-15

VOLVO EXPORT

A little inside information
to UK Military Personnel

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SOLDIER



With Mount Everest behind him, Rfn Narbahadur Bura of 6 GR runs down the mountain to finish 19th in the third Everest Marathon. British Army athletes filled six of the top ten places in the world's highest and hardest race. Details in Page 54.

Picture: Robert Howard